



Music is served ...

The "Siskel and Ebert" of Irish music Shay Clarke and Bill Margeson debut on National Public Radio WDCB 90.9 FM ...see page 21



Houlihan & sons go Hollywood
Pat, Mike and Bill Houlihan ...page 31

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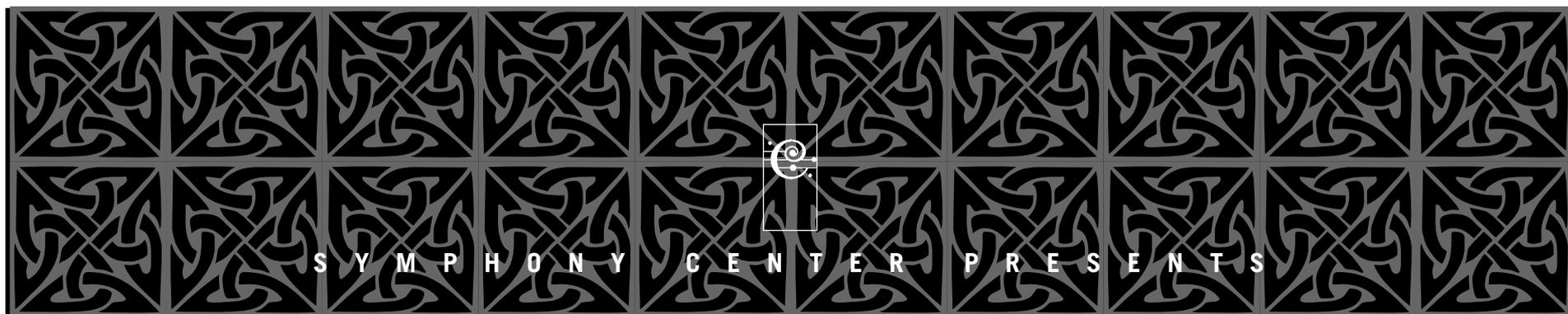
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(ISSN #1085-4053)

(USPS #013454)

January 2006 Vol. XXX # 1

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Irish News, Inc. is published monthly for \$20 one year, \$35 for two years and \$45 for 3 years in U.S.A. \$75 abroad, \$35 in Canada by Irish News Inc., 7115 W. North Ave. #327, Oak Park IL 60302.

(Periodicals Postage Paid at Palatine, IL and additional mailing offices.)
POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
Irish News, Inc.
7115 W NORTH AVE #327
OAK PARK, IL 60302
708-445-0700 fax 708-445-2003
e-mail to:
editor@irishamericannews.com

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT

The opinions and statements expressed in this newspaper are entirely those of the authors, and do not reflect in any way the opinions of Irish American News.

Distribution
25,000

Gaelic Park hosts concert for Irish Music School Jan 28

The Irish Music School of Chicago concert Jan. 28 will reinforce the city's Image as the hotbed of traditional Irish Music. Acclaimed band 'bohola' and other local music legends will join the student musicians.

A concert that features generations of traditional Irish musicians and aptly named "Ó Ghlúin go Glúin" ("from generation to generation", pronounced "Oh ghl-oo-in guh gloo-in") will be held Jan. 28 in Chicago's Gaelic Park to benefit The Irish Music School of Chicago. The school, founded by renowned fiddler Sean Cleland, is dedicated to teaching and preserving Irish musical traditions.

The event will feature a 45-minute concert by the young and older students of The Irish Music School of Chicago. The school's students won top honors at the 2005 Mid West Fleadh Choeil (pronounced "flah kee- ol"), the prestigious regional traditional Irish music competition held in St. Louis. Following the student concert, Chicago-based traditional Irish music band, bohola, will perform as well as several luminaries from Chicago's Irish music community—continuing the tradition of having new generations of Irish musicians learn from their musical elders.

"Since the late 1800s, Chicago has enjoyed a long and proud history of traditional Irish music that has produced a roster of prominent

musicians, and the concert will give Chicagoans the opportunity to witness the continuation of this living tradition," said Cleland. "Chicago remains a powerhouse, generating

and hone their music in informal Irish music "sessions" where seasoned players from the Chicago Irish music community, many of them originally from Ireland, mix with novices – shar-



Irish Music School students Maggie and Kristen Danaher

popular Irish music on the commercial front with a strong pipeline rich in up-and-coming talent."

Cleland founded the Irish Music School of Chicago in 2003 to teach Irish traditional music the old-fashioned way – predominantly by ear and with an emphasis on developing improvisational skills. His students learn in group and individual classes

ing tunes, stories and techniques.

While Cleland's young students preview the future of Chicago's Irish music scene, bohola, spotlights its continued vibrancy. Dubbed the newest Irish "supergroup" by the Irish Herald, bohola has earned international acclaim as a powerful force shaping traditional Irish music today. The group features three master Irish musi-

Last Call as 3 Men in Kilts hang em' up

by Bill Hannigan

Of all the frightening things to hear at 1:30 in the morning, "Last Call!" is probably the worst! "Settle up your tab!" runs a close second.

Well, there is no really easy way to put this, but come Friday, June 2, 2006, Three Men in Kilts will answer their very own "Last Call" and after twelve years of performing for you all...and together as friends, Marty, Dan and Bill are going to call it a night.

There's no drama to report...we've just decided that it's time to listen to the fun rather than create it.

Over the course of twelve wonder-

ful years, TMIK have been afforded a load of tremendous opportunities that we normally would not have been able to enjoy, had we not taken a leap of faith with each other and brought our brand of celt-o-delic rock and reel, kicking and screaming out of Mike Flannery's parlor...sharing our love of the music and a joke or two with you all each Friday and Saturday night.

We've been blessed, over the course of our Irish musical adventure, with great friends...fans, pub managers and event organizers that treated us with respect and loyalty, our friends in the air, in particular, Mitch Rosen, John Swanson, Eric Ferguson, Kathy Hart and everyone at The MIX, the spirit of Gus Evan-

gelides and Children's Memorial Hospital and the McCarthy's and Juvenile Diabetes Research...opening our hearts to a much greater cause, The Go-Go and World Champion Chicago White Sox, the C.U.B.S. for all of the comedic material and last, but definitely not least...our families...their support, patience, understanding, sharing us with you each weekend...allowing us to do what we love...and more importantly...their love through it all.

It's always been Marty, Bill and Dan...over the twelve-odd years it's been just the three of us...and when all is said and done...we're still best friends, as it's been since we were little kids.

The Lads in Plaid will be for-

ever grateful to Jimmy Cloonan and Joe Caauwe, the real Boys of Connemara for keeping Three Men in Kilts on the road while Danny was recovering from ACL surgery...your sense of humor, your great musicianship, your sacrifice and friendship will never be forgotten...and how about Bill Mahoney, lending his fine voice to us whenever called upon and on our "Ten Years On!"...our loyal lunatic and friend, Mike Erickson.

One thing we know to be true is that there's a warmth, fellowship and good humor you can only find at your favorite pub...with a few friends around you to share "a coke and a joke."

For twelve years you've all helped make it a warmer, friendlier and more loving place to be. Before therapists, there were bartenders...before Prozac, there were pints... and before we go.. we'll have an OMATI (pronounced O-MA-EE, one more and that's it!) The lights are on, the towels are up...we'd best be on our way. Siné...That's it!

Marty Connolly, Bill Hannigan and Dan McGuire

Three Men in Kilts

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Tinker's Dam

by Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley



Rev. John B. Bannon: Confederate chaplain's life spanned an ocean, two nations

One of the still unhealed wounds in our nation's psyche is the American Civil War (1861-65) which at times pitted members of the same family to fight against one another over slavery and states' rights. The Confederate states of the South seceded from the Union, and this led to four years of bloody conflict in which Americans fought and killed each other.

Life of Fr. Bannon

One of the more enigmatic characters of that conflict was Irish-born Fr. John B. Bannon who ably served the Catholic Church in the St. Louis, MO area, then joined the Confederate Army as a chaplain, and spent years promoting the Southern "cause" in Ireland. Following the Civil War, he remained in Ireland for the rest of his life doing great apostolic work among the Irish people.

His extraordinary career can easily be traced as a pastor of a thriving Catholic parish in St. Louis; a volunteer chaplain with the First Missouri Confederate Infantry; his diplomatic service in Ireland; and finally as one of Ireland's great preachers in the late 1800s who gave new life to the Church.

Fr. William Barnaby Faherty, S.J., the author, has made an excellent addition to the multitude of books published about the "War Between the States." He became interested about the life of Fr. John Bannon from the time he first saw the Stars and Bars of the Confederate flag in an art-glass window at St. John the Apostle and Evangelist Church in St. Louis. Here Fr. Bannon served not only as pastor but also as chaplain of the Missouri state militia. When war broke out in 1861, he gave up his parish to tend to the spiritual needs of his fellow Missourians who marched south to fight for the Confederacy. He was the only chaplain on either side to do so, and his work among the wounded and dying earned him a great reputation among the troops.

Fr. Bannon cared for the wounded and killed on both sides of the conflict. Many were of Irish birth or descent who fought for what they believed to be a worthy cause. Many of the Irish immigrants of that time landed in New York or Boston and were quickly enrolled in the Irish regiments of the Union Army. Many were even recruited in Ireland.

After several years of dedicated



chaplain service, Fr. Bannon received a new assignment when President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy asked him to return to Ireland to plead the cause of the South. Fr. Bannon was successful as a diplomat, and lessened Union recruitment among the Irish.

Following the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865, Fr. Bannon began what he considered his fourth career as a renowned preacher in Ireland as a home missionary. He felt unwelcomed back in Missouri and was open to prosecution if he returned there. He then decided to enter the Society of Jesus in Rome and was accepted as a Jesuit. He studied at the Jesuit novitiate in Dublin at the age of 35 in 1865. He also spent time at Louvain University in Belgium for a theology update. In 1867 he began residence at St. Francis Xavier Church in Dublin to begin his missionary work.

In 1850 the bishops of Ireland held their first synod since the 12th Century. It took place in the town of Thurles. They chose the parish mission as the chief tool in strengthening the religious life of the Irish, especially after the devastation of the Great Famine in 1847-50. Under the leadership of Cardinal Paul Cullen, archbishop of Armagh, the religious life of the Irish had taken a more devotional tone then popular in Italy.

Fr. Bannon joined the home mission movement with great talent but some misgivings about his abilities. His first home mission was to the Catholics of the Island of Man in the Irish Sea in November of 1867. The three-week mission proved to be successful and Fr. Bannon was assigned to the group of Jesuits who traversed the length and breadth of Ireland from Belfast to Cork, and Dublin to Galway.

They helped to restore the dormant Catholic Faith in all they encountered, and even made some converts among the Irish Protestants. The missionaries spoke plainly but with great fervor and often

with splendid eloquence on matters of salvation. As a result, countless individuals returned to the practice of their Faith.

What helped Fr. Bannon and his group was a great change that came to Ireland on Jan. 1, 1871. The English Prime Minister William Gladstone passed a bill in Parliament which ended the British attempt to foist state-controlled Protestant religion on the Irish

people by forcing them to pay taxes in support of Protestant churches. The result, with the encouragement of the Jesuit missionaries, was the building or rebuilding of many Catholic institutions and churches in the last two decades of the 19th Century in Ireland.

Fr. Bannon also established a sodality of businessmen at St. Francis Xavier Jesuit parish to bring about a more just

society in the city of Dublin. The famed Irish novelist James Joyce was a member of the group and wrote about it.

By the time of his death on July 14, 1913, Fr. Barinon was one of the best-known and respected priests in Ireland. His apostolic work spanned 60 years of priesthood and two nations. He left a great legacy in both America and Ireland.

Kerry Association holds annual dinner dance

The Kerry Association of Chicago recently held its 26th Annual Dinner Dance at Chicago Gaelic Park. Nearly 400 members and friends attended the very festive occasion. Consul General Charles Sheehan gave glowing remarks. This year the club honored Tom Sheehan and John Joe and Brid Griffin for their devotion and hard work in supporting the club. The evening continued with dancing by Michael O'Connell and his band. The winners of this year's scholarship raffle were: Sinead Walsh, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Patrick Yerkes, Patrick Killen, Michael Marks and Allison Kubicici. Congratulations to all of the lucky winners.

The Kerry Association would like to congratulate John O'Connell on his 10 years as president of the Association. John was overwhelmingly elected in 1995 and has been a devoted officer ever since. He is the longest termed president since the Association came into being 26 years ago.

The officers of the Kerry Asso-



The officers of the Kerry Association standing: Honorary President John Fitzmaurice (Banna), Treasurer John Carmody (Ballybunnion), Trustee Bill Devitt (Chicago), Trustee Mike Moran (Caherciveen), Warden John Joe Griffin (Castlegregory), Vice President T.J. Dale (Killarney) seated: Corresponding Secretary Patricia O'Connell (Chicago), Trustee Nora Cooke (Chicago), President John O'Connell (Moyvane), Recording Secretary Patricia Griffin (Chicago), and Assistant Secretary Bridie Murphy (Causeway). Not pictured is Chaplain - Father Dan O'Sullivan (Chicago)

ciation would like to wish all of their members and friends a blessed and healthy holiday season. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2006.



Pictured (l-r): John O'Connell, Tom Sheehan, Patricia Griffin, Rose Sheehan

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Otto had been in the nuthouse for ten years, but we thought he might be faking.

Maybe he figured it was three squares a day, read the paper, unlimited napping, a roof over your head and nobody bothers you. Knowing Otto, I'm sure he developed his own philosophy on his stay at the nursing home.

Otto had been bs'ing us since we were in first grade, so his diagnosis a decade ago didn't really surprise anybody. Technically it was called alcohol encephalopathy,

a fancy shmancy way of sayin' Otto had suffered brain damage from Mr. Booze. When we first went out to visit him at the home, I talked to his brother who told me, "He suffers from delusions. He thinks he served in Viet Nam and has grandiose conspiracy assignments for the CIA."

That was the same type of malarkey Otto had been spinning to us as kids hanging out at the b-ball courts in Beverly. Otto was well read and had a keen intellect, which he used to great effect as a

provocateur and troublemaker in his youth. He had a caustic wit that he began fueling with beer in seventh grade.

We admired him, not for his falsehoods, but his dedication to the detail of his devilish designs. Otto was a master who weaved his BS into a rich tapestry of eccentric lies. My old pal Malachy Keane had grown up next door to Otto. It was Malachy who initiated our first sojourn to visit Otto at the nursing home, three years into his institutionalization.

Otto started right in with his delusions once we sat down in the cafeteria for a cup of coffee and got comfortable with our old friend. He appeared normal, even looked like he had gained weight, but he let it drop in the midst of our bonhomie that he had just flown in the night before from a mission in Nicaragua.

We actually went along with it, rather than challenge his fantasy and potentially set him off on a psychotic episode. We always knew he was crazy, but now it was official and we had some reverence for his lunacy.

After twenty minutes into our banal reminiscing, I gave Malachy the high sign that we should split. Otto walked us to the front door as we said adios. Standing in front of the Waukegan nursing home with

its lovely view of the parking lot, Malachy remarked to Otto "This seems like a nice place."

Otto mumbled, "Yeah, it's not bad, for Kansas."

Malachy eyes bugged as he whispered to me, "He thinks we're in Kansas!"

It was just enough oddball logic that convinced us then that maybe the doctors we're right. This guy had burned out several spark plugs.

Malachy and I left that day of our first visit and drove directly to a bar. We felt bad for our old pal, but it seemed pretty apparent that he was not coming back from whatever planet he was now operating. That was about seven years ago.

Malachy called me last week and told me he was flying in from Austin and would I be interested in paying Otto another visit? Mack said, "It will be a corporal work of mercy!"

Indeed it would be and I said count me in.

We knew that the trip to visit Otto would provide a touchstone for our own alcoholic consumption and mental condition. Otto's presence would be a warning sign on our own slippery slope.

The nurse told us we could find Otto in the cafeteria. We walked in and spotted Otto in the corner with another guy. He seemed surprised and then delighted by our visit

Otto shook our hands and took us to a room to wait while he had his lunch. Malachy said to me, "He doesn't want us to see him eat."

It seemed perfectly normal to me, in fact Otto looked positively

full of vim and vigor other than a couple missing teeth in front, which he hid with a sloped grin. Malachy and I had long since lost our hair but Otto was still sporting a mane like Bat Matherston.

The room Otto had escorted us to contained a couch and two chairs, a couple prints on the wall, and a bookcase of old books and arcane magazines like Reader's Digest. It was only about six feet wide and provided just the right amount of claustrophobia for a visit to the mental home.

One of the prints on the wall was a Van Gogh. He was nuts too.

Mack and I catalogued our reaction to Otto's state of mind as we waited.

"He remembered our names!"

"He looks pretty good."

"He's faking."

But Mack was more inclined to give Otto the benefit of the doubt. He had known Otto a lot longer than I and he was still convinced that his boyhood friend was bonkers.

But I had my doubts. This was a compassionate visit but also a research project. If Otto was pretending to be mentally deficient in order to suckle at the county teat and have all his responsibilities disappear, then I was ready to build him a statue.

By the end of our visit that day, Otto's state of mind was still a mystery. Maybe it always will be. And maybe that's how Otto will make sure that Malachy and I will continue to visit our old friend every year until we are as loony as he is. Happy New Year Otto.

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Top Sinn Fein man outed as British spy

Denis Donaldson, a 55-year-old former head of administration at Stormont, said he was recruited in the 1980s as a paid agent for the British security services. Mr. Donaldson was working as a Sinn Fein Assembly group administrator in Parliament Buildings during the PSNI raid on the party's offices in October 2002, which has since become known as the 'Stormontgate' affair. Mr. Donaldson echoed earlier comments from Mr. Adams, insisting that 'Stormontgate' was a Special Branch "scam". Mr. Adams said the talk of a spy-ring at Stormont "was a very carefully constructed lie which was created by the Special Branch to cause maxi-

mum political impact." However, a statement released by the Northern Ireland Office read: "We completely reject any allegation that the police operation in October 2002 was for any reason other than to prevent paramilitary intelligence gathering."

Mr. Donaldson was approached by the PSNI and warned that his life was at risk and that he was to be "outed" as a British agent. He reported this to the chairman of the Sinn Féin six county cuig, Declan Kearney, and admitted after meetings at the party offices that he was a spy. He was interviewed by Mr. Kearney and Leo Green, a member of the Sinn Féin negotiating team, before being dismissed. Mr. Adams speculated that the PSNI approach to Mr. Donaldson was the initiation of a plan to hinder the peace process.

With the 'Independent' Monitoring Committee due to report in January, the "scandal" could have been used to send the peace process into another engineered "crisis". Mr. Adams said, "This is entirely the responsibility of the British government."

Mr. Ahern admitted that 'Stormontgate' "never made much sense" to him, and said he would wait until he heard all sides of the story before commenting further.

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The IAAA celebrates Irish artists

The Irish American Arts Awards (IAAA) has been created by members of the Irish American community in New York. Headed by its Chairman, Simon Pereira Shorey, the IAAA will celebrate the talent of visual artists of Irish ancestry, and recognize and encourage the art produced by members of the 80 million strong worldwide Irish Diaspora, over 45 million in the United States of America alone.

From early carvings found at Newgrange done over 5,000 years ago, through the magnificent Bronze Age artifacts to the Book of Kells to the present, Ireland has a history of art of the very finest quality. A strong indigenous tradition of painting emerged in the 19th and 20th centuries with John and Jack Butler Yeats and William Orpen. This continues today with such talented contemporary artists as Robert Ballagh, Sean Scully, Dorothy Cross and Elizabeth O'Reilly, among many others.

The awards ceremony will be held annually in Manhattan, with the first to be held in September of 2006. Entries from artists working in the field of the visual arts may include paintings, drawings, prints, new media and sculptures. There will be two categories, one for those aged less than 35 years of age and one for those over 35. Submission details and rules, regulations and all relevant information will be available shortly at www.irishamericanartsawards.org. Entries may be submitted from March 17th 2006 to May 15th 2006 and the 2006 IAAA short-list will be announced in June 2006. A main award of \$25,000 is planned, together with subsidiary awards. It is intended to raise money for Irish, arts and other charities through the Irish American Arts Awards. The Awards' first brochure, sponsored by Merrill Lynch, will be available shortly.

"Members of the Irish Am Heritage Center, Water Reclamation Commissioner Frank Avila and his wife Sherry celebrated 40 years of marriage November 27, 2005. Frank and Sherry produce CAN-TV shows, and have videotaped numerous events at the IAHC.

Sherry joyfully sings soprano with the Irish Heritage Singers, and she is a docent for the Center. They have three children: Frankie (36 years), a lawyer with the Avila Tomic Law Firm, Quinn (31 years) a computer consultant, and Audrey (23 years), a first year law student at Kent Law School."



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Irish Books in Review

BY FRANK WEST



The Road Before Me (Began Behind)

By J. Sean Callan

Author House/800-839-8640: Bloomington, IN, 2005, 358 pages, \$21.00

The priest was giving a sermon for the retreat at the boys-only school. He was speaking to adolescent boys who were only just becoming aware of girls. He commanded "We must stamp out smut. Excorciate it. We must be chaste in every way. In thought, in word and in deed" he railed.

"Indeed we echoed..."

That was in 1950's Ireland, but the retreats we had here were very similar: longer on fear, short on kindness.

The author of this autobiography is Sean Callan. He is a playwright, author and medical doctor. He lives with his wife in the Chicago area. He play, *Hearthstone*, was recently produced at the Irish American Heritage Center,

and I reviewed *Courage and Country*, his wonderful biography of Civil War general James Shields.

Webster's Dictionary states that an autobiography is "...the story of ones own life written by oneself". That sounds simple enough, but Sean Callan shows immense bravery in exposing his feelings fears and other emotions to us, the readers.

Callan's autobiography is composed of stories of events that occurred during his life. These are placed on a time structure: they can be about when he was a boy, to when he was a young man about to fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor. Callan has a gift for telling stories.

I personally admire his struggle to overcome obstacles in his life. He father was a policeman; his mother

to be denied knowledge about their own bodies.

A sentence from the cover says "this rewarding book will make you laugh, cry, glad and sad in a roller coaster ride along the byways and back streets of Ireland".

As he says, the purpose of the book is that "I want my progeny to be able to use it as a resource and stepping stone to the past. I want them to be able to know about my life and me. To know where and when I grew up and how I came to be who I am".

The stories in the autobiography, *The Road Before Me*, describes Callan's personal experiences, but they also describe life in Ireland. The period he writes about is the: 1940's, 1950's and the 1960's.

Urban sprawl hadn't begun yet in Ireland. Even the cities were physically close to the countryside. And society was close to traditional Ireland. This proximity shows up repeatedly in the book's stories.

Society, both in Ireland and here, was more closely knit then: people belonged to extended families; and they had close relations with their neighbors. People didn't move often, and they got to know each other over several generations. Interaction with

other people, and the ensuing human warmth was important and valued. Something that is often missing today. People are more reserved, distant and wary today.

I'm not saying things were better then, but I am saying that closeness with people was more the norm and more valued then. Versus the isolation we often see today.

This is an optimistic, ennobling and humorous look at the life of one Irish man. I enjoyed reading *The Road Before Me*, and I think you will too.

This is a quote that illustrates how acutely the young student doctor, Sean Callan, observed the world.

The pompous, arrogant doctor was leading the student doctors on rounds. The patient in the bed in front of them had emphysema. The doctor opined that he was probably a smoker, and he was disappointed when the patient told him he was not.

Then the doctor predicted that he must play a wind instrument. "I do, sir. Indeed I do"...said the patient." Tell us which wind instrument, my good man" said the doctor in his annoying paternalistic way.

"The accordion" said the patient proudly.

SLÁINTE

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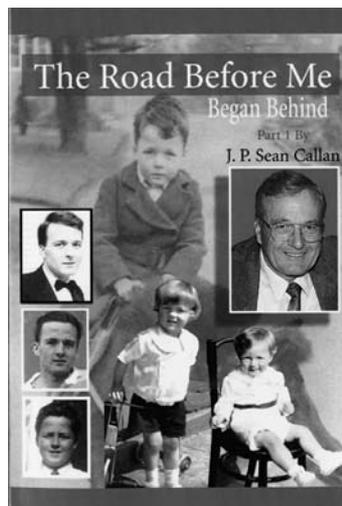
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a housewife/ There was no money in the family but there was plenty of self-respect and determination.

Sean Callan mentions the story of Dr. Noel Browne. He was a member of the coalition government that came to power in Ireland in 1948. He proposed the "Mother and Child Scheme". Callan tells us it included "educating women about childbirth and reproduction. This did not sit well with the Irish Catholic Hierarchy. Dr. Browne was accused of introducing birth control into the country... His proposal was roundly condemned by many of the clergy." Needless to say, it was not enacted and women continued

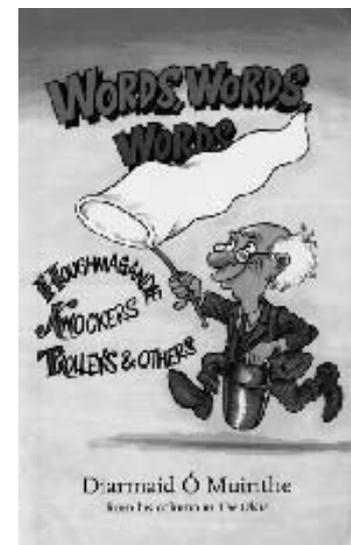
Words, Words, Words

"May we all be alive at this time next year."

This traditional Irish toast for the New Year is cited by the author of *Words, Words, Words: Houghmandie, Knockers, Trolley & Others* by Diarmaid O'Muirthe. Sitric/ Lilliput Press/ Dufour Editions/ 610-458-5005: Dublin and Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, 2005, 72 pages, \$18.95.

The author write the column "Words We Use" in the *Irish Times*. He also writes a column for the Irish monthly magazine, *The Oldie*. He was senior lecturer in Irish at the University College Dublin. And he has published several their books about the origin of words.

This is a man who loves words: their sounds, origins, uses and nuances. The dedication for the book is telling: "Words alone are certain good."



William Trevor recommended this author to *The Oldie*, and suggested he and his books be added to the annual list of books and authors suggested by the magazine. He described the author's writing as "delightful".

That praise from William Trevor is amazing because he is the spectacularly powerful and prolific Irish author who has written many acclaimed novels and short stories. His most recent novel, *The Story of Lucy Gault*, became a *New York Times* Notable Book.

Trevor says about Diarmaid O'Muirthe: "His knowledge is encyclopedic and he conveys it with such wit, style and enthusiasm that he is never less than a delight to read."

If words and their origins excite you, you will enjoy reading this book.

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The Bible War in Ireland: Second Reformation and the Polarization of Protestant-Catholic Relations, 1800-1840

At the end of the eighteenth century, an evangelical movement gained enormous popularity at all levels of Irish society. The Bible War in Ireland

identifies this evangelical movement as the origin of Ireland's protestant "Second Reformation" in the 1820s, which broke into open expression when Archbishop William Magee of Dublin claimed ecclesiastical supremacy for the Church of Ireland

in his famous inaugural sermon in St. Patrick's Cathedral in October 1822. This effort, in turn, helped provoke a revolution in political consciousness among the Catholic population, led by Bishop James Warren Doyle. The Doyle-Magee controversy set the

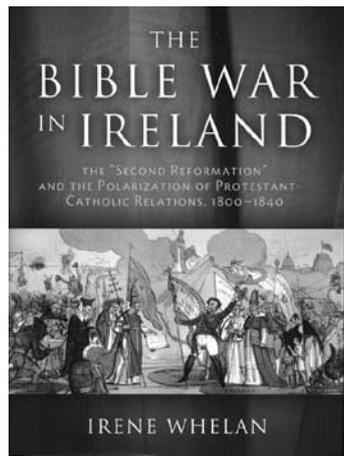
stage for the emergence of the Catholic Church as a leading player in the Irish political arena, culminating in the Catholic Relief Act of 1829. Extensively researched, Irene Whelan's book puts forward a uniquely challenging interpretation of the origins of religious and political polarization in Ireland.

Irene Whelan, born in Clifden Co.

Galway, was educated at University College Galway and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is associate professor of history and director of Irish studies at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York.

www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/books/3903.htm

University of Wisconsin Press, \$60, ISBN 0-299-21550-4.



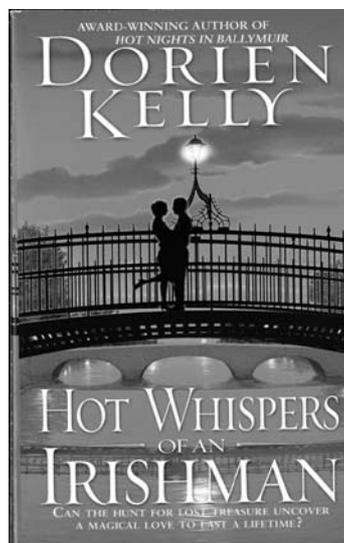
Hot Whispers of an Irishman

Hot Whispers of an Irishwoman is a delightful tale from the Emerald Isles about a feisty Irishwoman, Vi, who finds love anew when she joins forces with an old flame, Liam, in order to find a legendary treasure of gold. Can Liam convince Vi that her love is more important than the fate of the legendary treasures, while still continuing his search for the elusive gold?

Dorien Kelly set aside a legal career to return to her first dream – writing. She has received both the Romance Writers of America's Golden Heart Award, and the Georgia Romance Writer's coveted Maggie Award. Her first novel was nominated for the Romance Writers of America's RITA Award and is the first of three contemporary romances set in the fictional Irish town of Ballymuir. Dorien lives near Grand Rapids, Michigan with her husband and three children.

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CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



Once again as we begin another New Year we take this opportunity of wishing our readers a merry and happy New Year, with good health and happiness throughout. Our thanks to many people for allowing us to be in touch, include our fine Editor, Cliff, who month after month makes my humble column readable for our readers and also provides space in his popular paper. Our thanks also to the many readers who write, phone and talk with us concerning the column, offering their pro's and con's for our opinion. The writing of a column is a two-way street and without your great help it would be impossible to perform. So please keep me informed.

Thank God 2005 has been a good year for most of us. For others who lost loved ones it's been sad and lonely. We offer our sympathy and prayers that the Healing Process has begun. Some of our readers including Mike Kenny, Martin Fahey, John Griffin, and others who have been hospitalized, we say Tanum cun De,

for their speedy and complete recoveries. Others including Joe Begley, Mike Scanlon and Mike Flanagan, who have been recently hospitalized, we ask for our readers prayers, that those three great gaels have speedy and complete recoveries.

On the home front hopefully the Chicago Gaa and our senior hurlers and footballers have patched up their differences. That past year was wasted unnecessarily and for that there is blame enough to go all around. But, that's in the past, hopefully it has been forgotten and by-laws enacted for the satisfaction of all concerned. The well fare of the game should always be our main concern and considerations for our many great supporters must be a top priority. Thankfully, our minor football board, ladies football, junior football and camogie continued to keep the flag flying and for the Chicago gaeldom say Gur a mile mait agat, a cairde agus beannact De ar an oibre.

Our thanks to Pat Daly, Editor of Gaelic Park News who keeps us

informed on Gaa news and many other items of interest for our readers. Our congratulations to Parnell's Junior A football teams on winning the American Board championship this year. Also to the Patriot's, an all-American football team who captured this new championship last year. And also to Joe Begley and Joe Keane for all their great work in getting this team together and training and inspiring them to win this much coveted championship.

And on a sad note, Owen Tracey, former chairman of the North American Board died in November in Philadelphia, and U.S. gaeldom mourned the loss of a great and dedicated gael. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm. Own was the first American Board delegate to the Central Council and recently received the President's Award by Sean Kelly, President of the Gaa for "Outstanding Service". Owen was a proud native of Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone. Our sincere sympathy to his beloved wife Mary and family.

Readers are reminded of the great Chicago Gaelic Park radio show each Sunday night, on station 1450 AM, from 7:05 to 9PM. Mary Riordan, Harry Costello and Mary Hackett are the three fine commentators who bring us all the local as well as current Gaa and other news from Ireland. For more information of all the events

happening at Gaelic Park please call (708) 687-9323 and chat with Melody or any of the charming colleens.

Chicago Gaelic Park aglow for Christmas

Last year the beautiful Christmas display of lights and decorations brought people from near and far to stop and admire the spectacular outside and inside Chicago Gaelic Park. Even strangers passing by drove around the spacious building and ground an even stopped and went inside to get a better all around view. They were amazed and delighted. So we asked well known gael, John Crean what he was going to do for an encore.

This year he answered us in no uncertain fashion with another brilliant display, even bigger and better than last year and again it was greeted by large crowds who flocked in and out of the beautiful building. The Crean Handiwork was again on display and its splendor and attractiveness would do justice to a professional group. Again our thanks and congrats – to the genial John and his fellow all-star crew. Cur a mile mait agat, a cairde.

Over the holidays Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland, was another big success as a crowded hall joined with Ireland's premier entertainer and his all-star group in celebrating Christmas in Ireland. It was another

award winning performance and an overflow attendance enjoyed every moment of it. The New Year's Eve Gala with Joe McShane and his Silverband Band playing some delightful Irish music ushered in the New Year in great style. Sean O'Donnell with its delightful dinner music also contributed to a memorable evening.

During the coming months some big Irish shows are scheduled including Paddy Reilly, Saturday, February 4th; The Merry Plowboys, Saturday, February 18th; the Famed Wolfe Tones in Concert, Friday, February 24th; Hal Roach, Ireland's favorite Comedian, Saturday, March 11th; St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17th. Tickets for all these great shows are available at the front office. Call (708) 687-9323 and talk to any one of the charming ladies.

Invitation to Gaelic Park

Our sincere thanks is extended to the charming General Manager of Gaelic Park, Marian Ryan, who invited us to attend with other local media an introduction to the New Management Team at Gaelic Park recently. During the course of a delightful evening chefs John and Manny displayed some of their culinary art and we were allowed to share some of the secrets that make Gaelic Park so attractive for its

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January 29, 2:30pm

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Ellen Skerrett, Scholar and co-author of *The Irish in Chicago*

Scholar Larry McCaffrey, Professor Emeritus, Loyola University Department of History

February 26, 3pm

"The Irish Ascendancy"

The role of the Irish in creating the successful business and political environment

speakers include:

Former Attorney General Neil Hartigan

Illinois State Senator John J. Cullerton

March 26, 3pm

"The Irish Consecution Gala"

Celebrating the present and emphasizing the future

Speakers include:

Scholar Bill Savage, Senior Lecturer, Northwestern University English Department and Newberry Library

Charles Sheehan, Consulate General of Ireland before Bill Savage

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“Good Food”. A visit to the famed Carraig Pub would not be complete without a taste, ever so small, of its fine wines and other refreshments, including Guinness and not forgetting our own Hennessy famed brandy. Slainte, a cairde.

The departure of the big giant, Tadgh O’Reilly, famed Cork footballer of other years from the Manager of Carraig Pub, left a pair of big shoes to fill. But his replacement, Tim Tobin, steps in and no doubt will fill the important position with distinction. He comes with high recommendations and a great background of such positions. And with a famed Kilkenny name of Tobin he seems to have all the qualifications. Cead Mile Failte, a cairde.

Marian Ryan, General Manager needs no accolades from me. The charming lass from Co. Mayo has played an important role in making Gaelic Park one of the most popular Gaelic Centers in the United States, one that is envied by many gael from all over the U.S. and even Ireland, who have visited here and been welcomed and made feel right at home. The advent of Marian and “the big lad from the Leaside” working together and leading the way made the Gaelic Park one of the most popular meeting places for Chicago gael and indeed of many business people who meet for lunch or a quiet drink. Tim Tobin, our new Carraig Pub manager fits right in where Tadgh left off and is proving to be an ideal replacement.

Michael Collins – 2006 biographical calendar

Our sincere thanks to well known Maureen O’Looney, owner of the Shamrock American Irish Import Store at 3150 N Laramie Ave, who sent along a 2006 biographical calendar of Michael Collins, the legendary Irish freedom leader during the Rising and later in the War of Independence, 1919-21.

During the War of Independence, Collins became a living legend because of the way, as one of the

leaders, he was able to evade arrest by British soldiers and others. His famed “Flying Columns” helped to drive the British to the negotiating table. As one of the Irish team sent to Britain to talk peace he reluctantly signed with others, a treaty which partitioned Ireland, declaring “I may have signed my death warrant tonight”.

The Treaty split the Irish nation and a very divisive Civil War that followed had Eamon DeValera and Collins on opposite sides. Collins was shot in an ambush at Macroom, Co. Cork on August 22, 1922.

Growing up in Ireland in the 20s after the Civil War was not a pleasant experience. You had to take sides, either for or against the Treaty. Coming from a Nationalist family, conflicts developed between neighbors and even between members of families. But, thanks to Herculean efforts by priests and the Gaelic Athletic Association peace and reconciliation gradually was established.

The calendar contains numerous official dates of important events during that time and is a collector’s item for history buffs and others. Such dates as the early years of Michael Collins who spent time working in London in a position with the British Civil Service and later as a bank official with a well known London Bank, from 1906 to 1910. He later returned to Ireland and became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He joined the Irish Volunteers under the command of Eion McNeil, prior to the 1916 Rising.

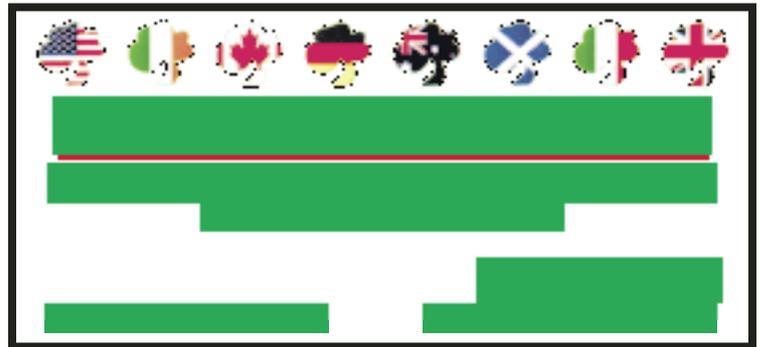
Other important dates included April 1916, with Collins as a combatant in the Easter Rising inside the GPO in Dublin. It is also interesting to learn, not from this calendar, but from other sources that Collins brother Patrick was a Chicago policeman and later became a Captain. It was said that he had a job with a Chicago bank for his brother Michael, but he refused and joined the Irish Volunteers instead.

Another important event, the coming of the infamous “Black and

... continued to page 16

Morgan Finley honored

Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County recently held a ceremony honoring former Clerks. The “Past Clerks of the Circuit Court Photo Unveiling Ceremony”, was enjoyed by the former Clerks and their family members. This was the first time recognition and memories of days gone by was celebrated.



Pictured (L-R) Betty Finley, former Clerk, Morgan Finley; Dorothy Brown; Matthew Danaher, Jr., Ellen Tully and Mary Pat Follett, the children of former Clerk Matthew Danaher; and Mr. & Mrs. John McDonough, son and daughter-in-law of former Clerk, Joseph McDonough.

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Mike Houlihan, Martin Mullarkey, Tim O'Malley, Art Bryan and Keiran Ahern in Kitty O'Shea's.



Tom Boyle and Diane Anderson at the Irish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon.

Celebrating Christmas and Friendship

The Irish around Chicagoland had a busy schedule in December.

Here are just a few of the events attended

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All



Bill and Rita Cook, Mary O'Malley, Mary Gallagher, Olive Godvik, Brendan Magee and Maureen O'Looney celebrate the holidays at a fundraiser held at The Baked Tomato Restaurant.



Joe Reid, Conor O'Keefe, Liam Boyle; drummer for the Shannon Rovers, and John Daly. Liam gives free lessons at the Irish Fellowship Club's Christmas Luncheon in the lobby of the Chicago Hilton once a year.



Irish Rep's "Realti" stars: Mary McCauley, Bridget Flanagan, Jack Goggin, Mary Ann Bell, and Julie Ann Shea at O'Brien's Restaurant attending a fundraiser for the theatre group.



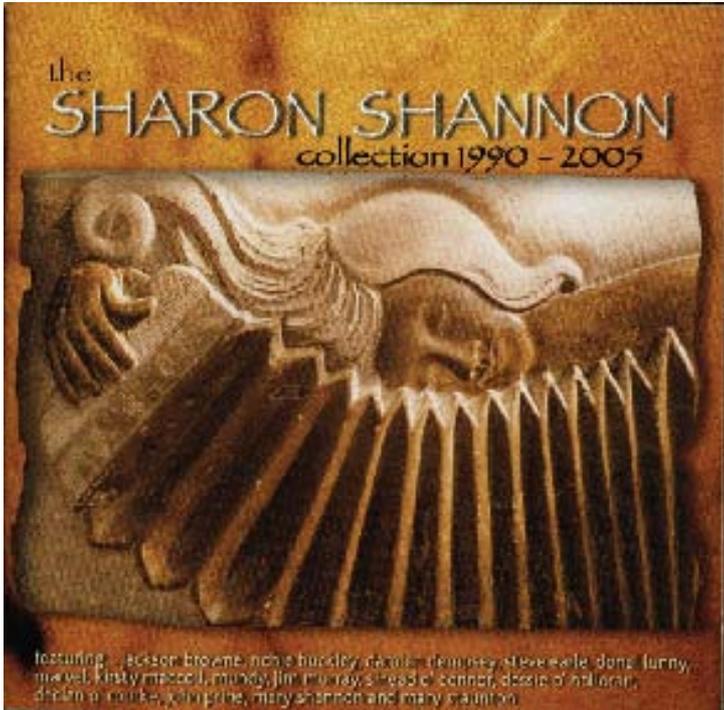
Bill Evans, Kevin McEldowney, Rich Finn, Robert Sheehy Jr., and Tom Boyle



Kevin McEldowney, Marianne Trotter and Willie Winters

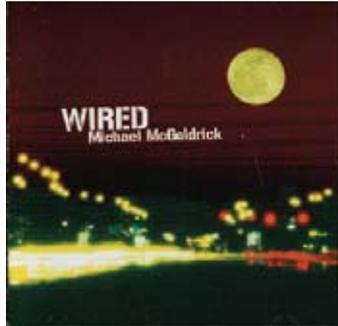
The Sharon Shannon Collection Released by Compass this month

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Wired by Michael McGoldrick

Wired, the new album from flautist, piper, and composer, Michael McGoldrick, is more than just the long-awaited follow-up to his groundbreaking



2000 album Fused. It is the culmination of musical pursuits first hinted at by his formative days in Manchester – pursuits that have defined him as one of the most vital and inventive musicians in today's British Isles folk renaissance. From spacious jazz trappings to surging Indian percussion, electronic loops to bluegrass banjo, Wired brilliantly harnesses the rhythmic momentum of Celtic folk music while bravely pushing into new sonic realms.

The result of three years of focused composition, recording, arranging, and experimentation, Wired takes the many threads that define McGoldrick's music and splices and re-connects them in intriguing new ways. While the mix of styles and vibrations encompassed by Wired is indeed refreshing and astonishing, it is not surprising that music so exciting and inventive has emerged from the visionary imagination of Michael McGoldrick. www.compassrecords.com



Celtic Woman, who just completed their second leg of their U.S. tour were presented by Manhattan Records/EMI with a plaque for Platinum DVD sales and Gold CD sales on November 8th after their show at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Their self-titled release has been the #1 World Music album for the past four months. Their U.S. fall tour was a tremendous success with sold out dates in several cities including Boston, Minneapolis, San Diego, Cincinnati, and others. The five-member group will return to the U.S. for a spring tour. Photos by Gary Gershoff. At the Carnegie Club in New York City (L-R): Deirdre, Orla, Lisa of Celtic Woman, David Downes, Musical Director Celtic Woman, Mairead and Chloe of Celtic Woman.

Irish Pub Floors of Chicago



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Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

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U.S.M.C.

Stamps were recently issued by the USPS to commemorate the anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corp. One of the four marines honored was gunnery sergeant Daniel Joseph Daly. He is listed on a website "Marines of Irish Descent." One look at this man's face tells you that he is the personification of rugged individualism. Winner of two Medals of Honor, the first as a "China Marine," won on the evening of August 14, 1900 occupying a barricade in the city of Peking, China during the Boxer Rebellion, he single-handedly held his position through the night. At dawn 200 Boxers were dead. He was awarded the Medal of Honor December 11, 1901. 1914 found him fighting at Vera Cruze in the Mexican-American War. October 24, 1915 fighting the Cacos in Haiti he again distinguished himself in battle. Gunnery Sergeant Daly fought with exceptional gallantry and at age 44 won his second Medal of Honor. Next we find him with the American expeditionary force in France. The 5th and 6th Marine regiments were fighting at Belleau Wood. It was here gunnery sergeant Dan Daly urged his rifleman forward into murderous enemy fire yelling, "Come on you Sons-of-Bitches!, Do you want to live forever?"

When the 5th and 6th Marine regiments arrived at the Muse Argonne the French were retreating and urging the Marines to retreat. U.S.M.C. Captain Lloyd Williams cried, "Retreat Hell! We just got here!"

Gunnery sergeant Dan Daly was 5'6" tall and 132 pounds. He smoked a pipe and never drank. He retired from the Corp February 26, 1929 as a Sergeant Major. He died April 28, 1937 at age 65. He remained single his entire life. By the way, he was born November 11, 1873 which was celebrated as Armistice Day following World War 1, which is now known as Veteran's Day.

There is a Belleau Wood Memorial in the Cook County Forest Preserve at Rand and Ballard Rd. in Des Plaines Illinois. Next time you pass by salute and say a prayer to honor the brave men who served. Take time to stop and think of poppies growing in Flander's Field. Semper Fidelis.

Cut and Run

Congressman John Murtha, retired Marine Corp colonel rose through the ranks. He won the American Spirit Honor Medal as a recruit. He served in Viet Nam, won a bronze star with the combat V, two purple hearts and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

The Republicans had to back-pedal furiously when Congressman Murtha came out against the war in Iraq.

Senator John McCain has become the conscience of the Republican Party.

Irish American Heritage Center library opens

Over 550 people R.S.V.P'd to attend the grand opening of the library. You could feel the excitement, everyone eager for the ribbon cutting. But not so fast, we had speeches to make and people we needed to thank. It would be impossible to recall all that was said. The remarks were light-hearted, and there was heartfelt gratitude for those who did the work and those who raised the funds.

Sunday, December 11, 2005 on the second floor of the IAHC there were in excess of 400 people gathered in the hallway.

This was a big day for Peig Reid our chief librarian who has worked tirelessly for years building the collection and cataloguing all the books and music. She was involved in every aspect of bringing the library to fruition, and her husband Joe Reid was with her every step of the way.

President Patrick Bloom emceed the program. Martin J. Healy Jr., Library Fund Chairman recalled the events of the Library Fund dinners, the dinner committees and the entertainment. The arts wing was filled with many luminaries. Among the guests were Charles Sheahan, Consul General of Ireland and his wife, Alice. Martin Healy's sister Eileen, and her husband John Morrow. The library book repository has been dedicated to the memory of Martin's parents, Martin J. Healy Sr. from Swinford, Co. Mayo and his wife Mary C. Henneghan, from Tourmakeady, Co Mayo. Also in the crowd was Neil Hartigan, former Lieutenant Governor and Appellate Court Judge; Bill Mitchell and his wife, Carolyn. Jim Sloan was missing as he had gone to California to spend time with his son, 1st Lieutenant James Sloan, USMC.



(l to r): Teárlach Ó Cathail, Peg Reid, and Dennis Sherwood ready the Irish American Heritage Center library for its opening to the public.

Dennis Daly, a major benefactor was their with his wife, Dorothy. I was pleasantly surprised to see Jim and Elaine McCormack. I thought they were in Florida. Dan McLaughlin, president of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, John Griffin, president of Chicago Gaelic Park and Gaelic Park board members Thomas P. Boyle and his wife Josephine, (Tom's my first cousin), and the irrepressible Barney Farrelly. John Fitzpatrick and his wife Corina. John was one of the "fearless foursome who started the library fund. Theresa and Ambrose Kelly, along with our stalwart volunteers, Jack Hever, Frank Duffy, Mickey Smith, Gerry Archbold, John McGrath; president of the Shamrock American Club, Maureen O'Looney, Tom Looney, and dozens of great people. Patrick Burke, IAHC Director and Finance Chair. The Keleghans, Gabe and Mary, Brian Donovan, Pat Coyne, Mary and Marty O'Malley, Fr. Kevin Shanley O'Carra, IAN columnist, father Kevin, has donated hundreds of books to the library. I was delighted to see Patrick "Patsy" O'Donnell from Aranmore Island, Martin McGuane and John Joyce, "The Heavy Gang," Past president, John P. O'Malley and Chuck Kenny with his wife Mary. Artist Ed Cox and his wife Mary. Ed painted all of the splendid Celtic designs around the center and the Literary Border in the library.

Our new Executive Director John Daly made some opening remarks. John is very excited about the new library, "A major resource that will transport us into the future. Cliff Carlson, publisher of the *Irish American News* professing to be "A little bit Irish going back to Famine Immigrants," gave us an inspirational accolade. IAN columnist, Frank West was in the crowd. The Heritage Singers sang "The Soldiers Song and The Star Spangled Banner while the Irish Music Academy provided traditional music for the occasion. When I made my remarks I chose to quote John F. Kennedy and George Bernard Shaw. I'll just give you the quote by Shaw. "Life

is no brief candle to me. It is sort of a splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

Gay Priests

Remember the old song, "Undecided Now," by Ray Charles. First you say you do and then you don't, and then you say you will and then you won't. You're undecided now, So what are you gonna do?"

Don't take your eyes off of the con man's walnut shells, which one is the pea under? They are trying to take your focus off of the pedophiles. From the AP: The Vatican defended a policy statement to keep men with "Deep seeded" homosexual tendencies from becoming priests, but said there would be no crackdown on gays who are already ordained. Reverend Andrew Greeley, "No sex ruling, no surprise." "This is not new, and it's not news."

Cardinal George . . . (as reported in the Chicago Sun-Times November 30th by Cathleen Falsani) "While every person is to be respected, men cannot be admitted to Holy Orders who 1)practice homosexuality; 2) have 'deeply rooted' homosexual tendencies; or 3) support the so-called 'gay culture,'" according to George's statement, which echoed some of the Vatican document titled "Instruction

Concerning the Criteria for the Discernment of Vocations with Regard to Persons with Homosexual Tendencies in view of their Admission to the Seminary and to Holy Orders."

"In other words," George said, "If one's self-identification as a 'gay man' is the most important component of a man's personality, he is not a candidate for Holy Orders."

"In a nutshell to say, "It's OK to be homosexual as long as you don't think like a homosexual, talk like a homosexual, act like a homosexual, hang out with homosexuals, or go to places that are known to be hangouts of homosexuals, well, that's ludicrous on its surface. And I don't say that flippantly. Sometimes the cardinal says, "Oh, that's flippant.' This isn't flippant. That's what the document says," the priest said, adding that he believed the "right wing" of the Catholic church had decided to make homosexuals "their scapegoats and whipping boys."

"At best, it's a distraction; at worst, it's damaging," said David Clohessy, national director of the advocacy and support group Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests. "It will feed the mistaken notion that [the abuse scandal] is about the behavior of priests and not the behavior of bishops. Gay seminarians didn't hire and transfer and cover for child-molesting priests. It was bishops who did that."

Suffer the Little Children

Jesus said: **Mark 10:14** Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. **15** Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. **16** And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mt 18:6 But who so shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.



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Students of The Academy of Irish Music play in the 5th Province at the Irish American Heritage Ctr.

Showcase Ireland 2006 January 22, 23, 24, 25

Dates for the 30th Anniversary of Showcase Ireland are January 22 - 25th, a tradeshow for wholesale buyers of Irish products, and held at the RDS Showgrounds in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland. Register on line at: www.showcaseireland.com.

The show runs in conjunction with Scotland's International Trade Fair in Glasgow which runs on the same dates.

The annual North American Celtic Buyers Dinner for all U.S. buyers will be held on Sunday evening at The Four Seasons Hotel in Ballsbridge. For information email: info@celticbuyers.com.

"IRELAND 2006
see Athlone & District Tourist Guide.
log on to www.acis.ie"

Pléráca

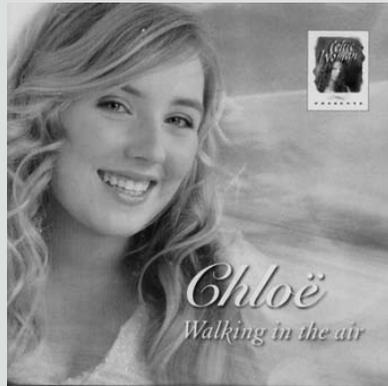
The Academy of Irish Music will host a performance and CD release party for its new CD, pléráca on Saturday, February 25 at 7pm at the IAHC.

Pléráca features music from old collections and newly composed pieces, ranging from slow lyrical melodies to fast driving reels. All pieces are a collaborative effort, with the musicians having input to the final arrangements. All the players on the CD, except one, have opted to go to college in the Chicago area, which means that they will be able to continue to develop and grow at a time when they would usually leave the Academy.

The performance will take place in the theatre and be followed by a CD release party in the IAHC Social Center. For more information on the CD release party or the Academy of Irish Music, e-mail Noel Rice at nrice@interaccess.com or contact him through the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Walking in the Air

Chloë Agnew, now 16 years old, made her singing debut when she was six. A couple of years later she won the Grand Prix at the First International Children's Song Competition in Cairo, Egypt, representing Ireland with the song "The Friendship Tree". Chloë recorded her first single at age 11 to raise money for Afghanistan children. She released her first album at 12 years old and her second at 14. Most recently she has been touring as a soloist in the show Celtic Woman. Her angelic voice has earned Chloë a very active fan-base.



www.chloeagnew.com, Manhattan Records, www.amazon.com.

Raining Up

Celtic Woman soloist, Mairead Nesbitt, says "Energy" and "Beauty" are the two words that best describe what she strives for as a musician and as a person. A fiddle player since the age of six, Mairead's Loughmore Co. Tipperary background is steeped in music. A former all-Ireland fiddle champion, Mairead's career has been one that has encompassed the contrasting styles of classical and traditional music. She brings a few elements from Irish music into classical music and vice versa with elements of jazz added as well. Raining Up, Mairead's first solo album, captures her wide range of styles, from traditional tunes to those composed by and for her. www.maireadnesbitt.com, Manhattan Records, www.amazon.com.



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Gaelic News

Continued from page 11

"Tans", is dated the 25th of March 1920. This motley English crew was so named because they wore a mixture of dark green RIC uniforms and British Army khaki. Their cruel deeds are still recalled by Irish families. This group is the one that broke down the gates of Croke Park in Dublin during a football game, opened fire on the spectators, killing 12 innocent people including goalkeeper of the Tipperary, Michael Hogan. This infamous date was named "Bloody Sunday", November 21, 1920.

For more information about this very informative calendar, call Maureen O'Looney, who by the way, tells us that her school teacher in Bohola, Co. Mayo was a sister of the late Michael Collins. Her number is (773) 286-6866.

Congratulations Fr. Kevin Shanley

Our congratulations are extended to popular Fr. Kevin Shanley, O.Carm, who recently conducted interesting talks on the 1916 Rising, and Irish Revolutionary Women at Gaelic Park. The Talks were well attended and will be repeated in the near future. This is a glorious oppor-

tunity for young Irish-Americans to learn authentic Irish history from a genuine source and not from people who attempt to rewrite Irish history for self-glorification. For dates on these Talks by Fr. Kevin call Gaelic Park (708) 687-9323.

St. Margaret's of Scotland Parish benefit

St. Margaret's of Scotland Parish and Maryville Academy for Neglected Children, at 9800 S Vincennes Ave, Chicago will benefit from the big 25th, according to good friends, Gene and Donna Earner, Sun City Center, Florida. Frank O'Hara and his fine band of musicians will provide the stirring music, and lovely Deirdre O'Reilly is also on the schedule as is the famed Jerry O'Loughlin and his champion Irish dancers and Sean O'Donnell, a champion accordionist.

Former parishioners of this great parish now scattered all over the U.S. either attend or send a donation for this worthy cause. Last years thanks to a private donator who matched the total received at the door - over 92,000 was raised. Tickets are available by Gene's sons, Dan and Brian who reside at 9414 S Springfield, Evergreen Park, IL (708) 636-8827.

Michael Flatley comes home

Michael Flatley came back to his home town of Chicago recently where he and his "Celtic Tiger" production received a tremendous welcome according to Eloise Marie Valadez in the Southtown Concert Review. Flatley's 90 minutes of "Celtic Tiger" is mostly his version of traditional Irish dancing - loud, sleek and touching the history of Ireland and the fight for complete freedom as it depicts the invasion of the British and the Great Famine in one period and the Irish in America, the land of opportunity in the other one.

In typical Flatley style he used the 3D screen to good effect giving a nod to family and friends occasionally as "I love you Mom and Dad". His fast movements across the stage belied his age and apparently his feet are as fast as ever, world championship tapper. His superb performance of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" was very well received as was his expert playing on the flute.

All in all, it was a superb performance in front of a crowded hall and in his hometown and with his parents and close friends in the audience. No one else has helped to make it world-renowned. Congratulations Michael, Chicago-Irish are proud of you and

the way you enhance traditional Irish dancing, song and music.

Mike Sheahan retires

Mike Sheahan's recent announcement coupled by his firm backing of his very qualified Chief of Staff, Tom Dart, as his replacement took many politicians by surprise prompting one to exclaim, "Do so many politicians have to be only of Irish decent"? And the answer is by all means, if they are qualified like Tom Dart.

The popular Mike Sheahan has been a great Sheriff with a distinguished record and after a long and hard career in law enforcement he is entitled to his retirement, to spend some time with his charming wife and family. Friends and foes alike will wish him every happiness and good health to enjoy his well-earned retirement. He has also been a great Irish-American and has backed every Irish cause along the way. We thank him for that wonderful support and tell him that we are proud to be associated with him over the years. Slainte, a cara. His replacement Tom Dart, backed by 53 of the 60 committeemen will make another excellent Sheriff. He has all the qualifications, Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, served in Illinois House and Senate and Chief of Staff to outgoing Sheriff. And need we mention a great Irish-American also.

Death of a well-known Christian Brother

The unexpected death of Brother Ed. Hennessy recently shocked his legion of friends in Chicago and other U.S. cities. The tall, quiet and reserved Br. Ed. (no relation) age 67 died at Christ Hospital, Oak Lawn, surrounded by family and other Brothers. He was still intent on getting to work the day he died.

The late Br. Ed. joined "the Brothers" in 1956 following graduation from Leo High School. He began his postulancy at West Park in New York. He earned his college degree at Iona College also in N.Y. with a B.A. in English. His first assignment was to Vancouver, Columbia. He also taught at St. Thomas Moore at Burnaby also in B.C. where he made many good friends.

Coming back to Chicago he taught at Leo where he held the title of Principal from 1968-1974. He as assigned to Bro. Rice School in 1975 until 1981. I had the honor of meeting the late Bro. Ed. at Bro. Rice School in 1980 when I was assigned from the City of Chicago to accompany Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, wife of Bobby Kennedy. She was visiting all the catholic high schools

during the campaign of her brother-in-law, Senator Ted Kennedy, who was running for the presidency. Bro. Ed. and the entire student body gave her a hearty cead mile failte and she was very impressed.

Br. Ed. was assigned to St. Lawrence H/S in 1981 where he taught math until his retirement in 2000. At the time of his death he was employed by Stickney Township as a resource person for caregivers. His large funeral mass was celebrated at St. Albert The Great Church in Burbank and his internment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his beloved mother, brothers and sisters, nieces, many friends and Christian Brothers. Ar dheis De go raibhn anaimn.

One of his students at Leo, class of 1975, Joe Tucker, wrote of Bro. Ed. "You have found the rewards of Heaven, after dedicating your life to the service of the young. May you rest in peace. May God comfort your family and friends. To that we say Amen."

Cheers, cheers for old Notre Dame Notre Dame, with a great year so far, came from behind in the closing minutes for their recent victory over Stanford, which locked up the Bowls game with a guarantee of at least 14 million for the famed University. Even John Kerry, Democratic nominee for the Presidency, was brought to his feet with that one.

Stanford rallied for a 31-30 lead going into the dying minutes of this thrilling encounter, only to see "The Fighting Irish" led by Brady Quinn, come roaring back to snatch victory in the end. It was a well-deserved victory, but a nail biter not good for weak hearts at the end.

Knute Rockne, a famed coach at Notre Dame back in the early 20s once said of hurling when it was suggested that it should be played at Notre Dame - the great one said, "A (hurling) stick in the hand of an Irishman is a dangerous thing". The game was rejected upon his word. But, in the mid 1960s the Chicago Gaa set about to prove the great one wrong.

Three bus loads of Chicago gaelts accompanied a hurling and football team to the famed University that day, on the invitation of officials from the University, and after two great exhibitions of Irelands national games, before a large crowd, under the famed "Golden Dome" received rounds of applause and a tremendous reception afterwards. Today teams from Notre Dame play at Chicago Gaelic Park, thanks to Chicago gaelts who lit the spark, took up the challenge and proved the great one wrong, at least on that one.

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Adventures in the book trade

By Kevin O'Hara

This summer, as I was standing in line at the hospital where I work in Pittsfield, MA, a young dietary aide announced to all and sundry, "See that guy, he's the richest guy in the hospital!"

Note my surprise when I saw him pointing his finger directly at me, and not the doctors nearby. Embarrassed, I pulled him to one side, telling him my finances have actually plummeted, not blossomed, since the publication of my book, "Last of the Donkey Pilgrims."

"I'm no fool," he said, unconvinced. "Anyone who writes a book becomes a millionaire."

In truth, I nearly believed that myself when my book first came out. "What are you going to write next?" my hospital buddies would ask. "My two-week notice!" I'd fire back. That was 18 months ago.

Now, the reader might ask, "How can one lose money after having a book published?"

Well, for starters, my modest advance was gone by the time I took the family for a holiday in Ireland, and paid for the book launch party at Patrick's Pub. Add a reduction of hospital hours to promote my book, and the purchase of an essential second car. Back at square one, I made a whirlwind tour of New England, visiting over a hundred schools, libraries and bookstores, shamelessly slogging my donkey book in fear it would quietly end up in the dreaded Dollar Bin.

This book-peddling adventure has been a rollicking ride of stratospheric highs and subterranean lows. Take my trip to a bookstore in Maine, for example, when I arrived to find nobody there, not even the owner, though a colorful flyer outside their window vividly announced the event. Or that icy night when I drove my rattling Corolla to the far reaches of New York State, to speak to a much-touted Traveler's Group. Arriving deep into the Adirondacks, I found four men sitting around a fieldstone fireplace belting back Yukon Jack, swapping their own tales from the Grand Canyon to Ayres Rock, Australia.

Or the renowned Irish pub in Manhattan, where I dutifully bombed, thanks to five upstarts who wouldn't shut up at the bar, and a sound system befitting a Bingo Hall, its microphone popping my P's like pistol shots. Later I heard a producer from a major TV network had been present, but left amid the cacophony, my chances for the "big break" going out the door with her.

Oh, but the triumphs! Imagine a kid from this G.E. polluted town in Western Massachusetts to have his book displayed in the front window of Barnes and Nobles' flagship store on Fifth Avenue, replaced a full eight days later by Bill Clinton's "My Life." Or receiving reviews that bandy words like "classic," "gem" or "masterpiece." Or the smiles and handshakes I receive at each reading. Or my 88-year old mother's delight when hearing me interviewed on her favorite Irish radio program.

Now add to that a thousand good people I have met. Most notably, Matt Molloy and Paddy Moloney of The Chieftains; the Irish poet, Paul Muldoon, and the great sportswriter, Leigh Montville.

But the absolute highlight occurred in latter August when I was invited to read at the Irish Fest in Milwaukee. This fair, deemed the largest Gaelic event in the country, was celebrating its 25th anniversary, and Mary McAleese, the president of Ireland, was to be in attendance.

"I'm going to hand my book to the president," I said to my wife Belita, packing one into my bag before departing.

When I arrived, however, the festival organizers told me differently. "You won't even get near the president," they assured me. "This place is swarming with Secret Service. Best give your book to her biographer, Ray MacManais, who'll be signing books beside you."

No, that wouldn't do, I thought, boldly inscribing my book to her. I'd flown out to Milwaukee on my own nickel, and I was determined to meet Mary McAleese, who, since her inauguration in 1997, has worked tirelessly for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Listed in Forbes Magazine as one of the most influential women in the world, President McAleese was born on the outskirts of Belfast in 1951, and has experienced the Troubles firsthand. A former barrister and law professor, she is the first president of Ireland to be born in the North, and is so popular she ran unopposed in 2004 for a second seven-year term. The theme of her presidency is "building bridges," and she helped sway the IRA to finally give up their guns.

On Sunday morning, following the president's heart-lifting liturgy for peace and justice before 16,000 festival-goers along the western shores of Lake Michigan, rumors circulated she would later stroll through the Cultural Center where I was reading. Sure enough, I spot-

ted a whirl of commotion moving through the fairgrounds that afternoon, with dozens of Secret Service agents surrounding the president and her entourage.

"I want her to sign my music book, but I haven't a pen," said a charming girl beside me.

I leant her my own, though neither of us had a chance to meet the president in the way the agents had cordoned us off. But one agent, overhearing our conversation and seemingly smitten by this lovely damsel in distress, whispered to her, "I'm going to open the line for a moment, and you go to the other side."

The line broke for a scant second, giving the girl a chance to queue up alongside the lucky ones. I, in turn, scuttled closely behind her and, lo and behold, found myself the last greeter on line.

After the president had smilingly signed the girl's music book, she stood before me.

"Mary," I blurted, "I'd be honored if you carried my book home with you. It's about my walk with a donkey around your country."

"How thoughtful," she said, graciously accepting my book and warmly shaking my hand. "I just hope your donkey was better behaved than the ones my dad kept when I was a child."

"She was, at times," I answered

her.

With that, Mary was quickly ushered through a makeshift exit in a tent, and whisked away by motorcade.

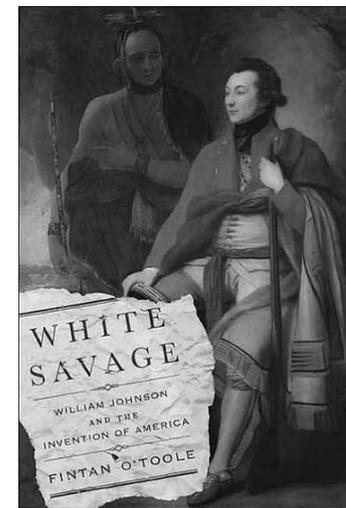
Walking out onto a stone jetty, I looked across the vast lake, my

heart still pounding from my brief encounter with this powerful yet caring woman. "Gee, maybe that young aide was right," I said, clapping my hands and running off to tell newfound friends. "Maybe I am the richest guy at the hospital."

White Savage: William Johnson and the Invention of America

Farrar, Straus, Giroux; hardcover \$26.00; ISBN: 0-374-28128-9, By Fintan O'Toole.

William Johnson was scarcely more than a boy when he left Ireland and eventually moved to the frontiers along the Mohawk River, where he established himself as a fur trader and became a landowner with vast estates. He commanded the British, colonial, and Iroquois forces that defeated the French in the battle of Lake George in 1755, created the first groups of "rangers," who fought like Indians and led the way to the Patriots' victories in the Revolution, and pioneered the use of Indians as active partners in the making of a new America. O'Toole's masterful use of the extraordinary documents written by Irish, Dutch, German, French, and Native American participants in Johnson's drama enlivens the account of this heroic figure's legendary career; it also suggests why Johnson's early multiculturalism unraveled, and why the contradictions of his enterprise



created a historical dead end.

Fintan O'Toole, columnist and drama critic for the Irish Times, is the author of seven books. His work frequently appears in a number of American magazines. He lives in Dublin, Ireland. www.erutherfordatfsgbooks.com.

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By Martin J. Healy, Jr.
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Library at the Irish American Heritage Center Opens

After many years of volunteer work and fundraising, the Library at the Irish American Heritage Center opened on Sunday, December 11, 2005, with hundreds in attendance.

The fundraising efforts began in 1994 with a small committee including Tom Boyle and John Fitzgerald. It spanned the supportive presidencies of John O'Malley, the late Nora Murphy, Mike Hamman, Chuck Kinney and Patrick Bloom.

It also spawned three major

fundraising dinners with special performances by Phil Coulter and Irish Tenor, John McDermott. The galas were chaired and emceed by the Honorable Neil Hartigan, Assessor Jim Houlihan, Channel 7's Joel Daly, Jim Sloan, Jerry Gleason and Bill Mitchell.

Just about every phase of the construction of the Library was advanced through the tireless efforts of volunteers at the Center, under the expert leadership of Ambrose Kelly. The Library will house the collective Irish knowledge from the past and make it available for generations into the

future. It is truly an outstanding Irish Library. There are books on almost every Irish subject, fiction and non-fiction, an adult and a special children's section, books on tape and videos. The Library also offers an opportunity to study ancient aspects of Irish history.

The Brehon Laws

From an attorney's viewpoint, an example of such a study could relate to one of the most interesting features of early Irish society, a remarkable system of societal self-regulation known as the Brehon Laws.

Research on Brehon Laws would indicate that long before the Viking, the Norman or the Anglo Saxon invaded its shores, Ireland had developed its own unique and well-defined way of life. Early Irish society laid great emphasis on distinctions of rank and profession. The application of the law was conditioned on one's status.

The Brehon Laws derive their name from 'brithem' in old Gaelic or 'breitheamh' which means judge in the modern Irish legal system. Accordingly, the Brehon Laws are literally judge-made laws. The Brehon Law judges were divided into three grades. The lowest was allowed to decide cases pertaining to craftsmen. Next in line was the judge known to be competent in traditional law and poetry. The most esteemed of the judicial cat-

egories comprised those learned in the traditional law and poetry, and also canon law. Each tuath, or petty kingdom had its own breithem who was appointed by the king. The judges' fees were, in some cases, calculated as one-twelfth of the amount at issue between the parties.

While the laws focused on protection of person and property, unusual offences, involving social mores of the time, included refusal of hospitality, violation of protection and satire. Satirical attacks might include mocking a person's appearance or physical condition, and could result in a fine. Anyone interested in ancient Irish systems of law or other aspects of Irish antiquity will have an abundant source of materials at the Library.

And on non-law related subjects, Ireland also has such a colorful history. The new Library will provide the research tools to explore its interesting past, from ancient to modern, and all other things "Irish."

The Library contains volumes by James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, William B. Yeats, Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw, for those with an appetite for tackling these worldwide Irish literary giants.

Books have been donated by various individuals over the past twenty years including some rare volumes of Thomas Moore's poetry and music from the late 19th Century, kindly donated by Tom

Boyle. Chicago native, Finley Peter Dunne, is well represented for those interested in following the adventures of his famous protagonist Mr. Dooley. The above is a mere snap shot of the collection available at the Center, and librarian, Peg Reid, will be happy to assist you with your search for the hard-to-find volumes from our Celtic past.

On a personal note, I want to thank the Officers and Members of the Board of the Irish American Heritage Center for recognizing my parents, Martin Healy, Sr. of Swinford, County Mayo and Mary Henneghan Healy of Tourmakeady, County Mayo, in connection with the Library.

The Library will welcome visitors after the first of the year.

By: Martin Healy, Jr., Terence Geoghegan, Partners, Healy Law Firm



Terence Geoghegan

Learn Latin

Benedict XVI encouraged the teaching of Latin, especially to young people, with the help of new methodologies. Benedict XVI said that the Latinitas Foundation must see to it that Latin continues to be part of the daily life of the Church, so that understanding of many of its treasures will not be lost.

Consider signing up for "Painless Latin," Chicagoland's premier non-credit Latin language program. No prereqs, no quizzes, no pressure - just fun with other Latin-curious types. Perfect for adults and students. Studies conducted by the Educational Testing Service show that Latin students consistently outperform all other students on the verbal portion of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).

Classes are held Thursday evenings, January 26 through April 20, 2006 (no class March 16) at North Park University 3225 West Foster Avenue Chicago, IL 60625 in the Chicago campus. Each session is made up of twelve-80 minute classes and costs \$150. For more information call (847) 256-8460 or e-mail hibernius@comcast.net.

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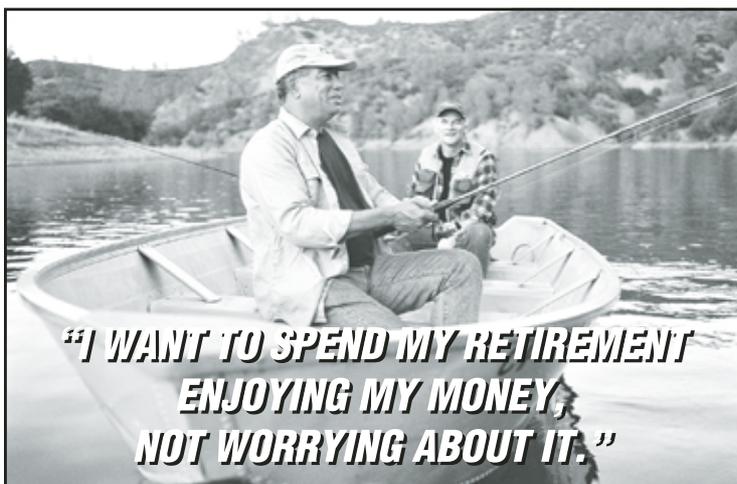
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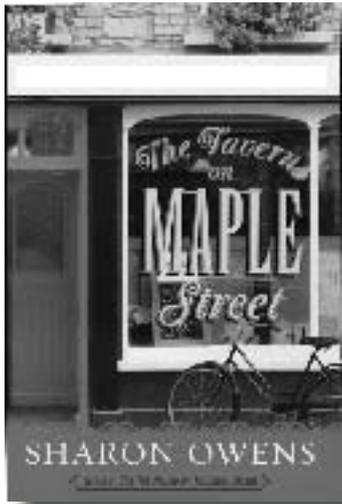


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The Tavern on Maple Street

Due to be published February 2006, The Tavern on Maple Street is full of Irish wit and gentle humor and



in keeping with Owens' trademark quirky Belfast tales. Jack and Lily Beaumont are the owners of the tavern on Maple Street, a quaint Victorian pub at the end of a cobblestone path. It's a quiet place untouched by the modern world making it a favorite among the locals. However, this local

treasure is threatened when a property developer want to demolish the tavern and build a shopping mall. But there's a secret about the Tavern that once it's discovered will redefine the meaning of love, friendship and family in the most surprising ways.

Sharon Owens was born in Omagh, Northern Ireland and moved to Belfast in 1988 to study illustration at the Art College. Owens still lives in Belfast with her husband and their daughter. <http://us.penguin.com>
by Sharon Owens GP Putnam's Sons; hardcover \$22.95; ISBN: 0-399-15343-8

WWII Memorial Tour

The Association of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans will lead a group to England and France during April 2006 to commemorate the 62nd Anniversary of these historical events; D-Day landings, the Battle for Normandy and the drive through France to Bastogne.

The itinerary will include London, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, OMAHA and UTAH beaches, Caen, St. Mere Eglise, Caretan, Argentan, Falaise and Paris. A memorial service will be held at the American Military Cemetery at Colleville Sur Mer in France.

Rock Shadow

WideAwake Press has recently published Máirín Diamond's second collection of poetry titled Rock Shadow which is a celebration of nature, people and places. Many of the fifty-six poems evoke the atmosphere of the West of Ireland - the sea, the landscape and the drama of the changing light through the four seasons. Some of the poems deal with love, loss, emigration,



For information call Sy Canton at the Association (561) 865-8495 or send inquiries to 5121 B Nesting Way, Delray Beach, FL 33484.

grief and death. Rock Shadow also seeks to record something of Ireland's traditional culture and way of life, increasingly under threat.

Born in Renvyle, Co. Galway Máirín Diamond studied literature and philosophy at the University of

Sussex and now lives in Dublin.

Rock Shadow has not been widely distributed yet. For a copy, send your address and a cheque or postal order for \$12.50 to Máirín Diamond, 69 Bath Ave, Sandymount, Dublin 4. 011-353 1 6602366

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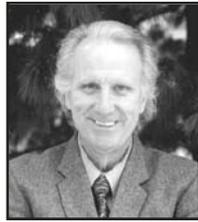
Come to our first school concert
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Saturday, January 28, 2006

T

radition In Review



By Bill Margeson



We expect you had a great Christmas, and so did we! As you see elsewhere in the paper, National Public Radio has asked us to join partner, Shay Clarke to host a weekly Irish music program. The fun begins Monday, January 2nd on WDCB, 90.9 fm. from 7-9:00 p.m., and every Monday from then on. We're going to feature the full range of real Celtic music. There will be a full score of artists and styles, as we continue our decades-long effort to enlighten and educate Shay on this music. The show will be called, Blarney on the Air. Some of the readers remember when we hosted a show by the same name about 12 or 13 years ago. This is all lost in the sands of time. It was during that era when Shay's Mother (a Saint, to be sure) admitted to us that, yes, his upbringing in Dublin had very little to do with music, and what there was in terms of musical appreciation was quite limited. We know. But, the journey continues.

We'll be featuring the same artists you read about here. The show will follow in the footsteps of our late friend, Mike Fleischer, and his show, Treasures From The Isles. It can't replace Mike's popular program in any way. We won't try that particular impossibility. It will be different from his show, but we know he'll be there every week with his hand on the throttle. When Shay attempts to fob some of his favs off as the "real deal", we'll just view ourselves as the "Truth Squad." We will most definitely have a ball. And, so will you. We promise you're going to hear the very best each week. Maybe, you'll learn something about the music. We know we will! It will most definitely have a trad feeling, but that is a very wide waterfront today, and we'll be covering it in detail. If you love great Irish/Celtic music, and a good laugh as well, join us every Monday night! And, there's

no one in the world we'd rather be doing this with more than Shay, painful as that is to admit. Irish Fest in Milwaukee has announced most of its acts for the 2006 get together. Looks like another mega winner. Highlights will most definitely include a return of last year's hit of the Fest, The Bridies. People are still talking about the most popular group in Ireland now--and one of the more controversial. We love 'em! Also, joining the Fest will be the hottest act in trad now, The Dave Munnelly Band. Munnelly is already one of the greats in the history of the button box. Guitarist Galvin Ralston, Dave's brother Kieran on flute and bodhran, plus keyboardist, will join vocalist, Andrew Murray. Bet on it now, this will be a huge hit in the band's premier appearance at Fest. This group is hot, Hot, HOT! Those few of you who saw them at the end of last September's Celtic Fest in Chicago's Grant Park know just what a coup for Irish Fest this is in landing Munnelly. Up Mayo!!! Wow!! Then, comes a real treat worthy of the Fest at its best! Nova Scotia Kitchen Party!! There is going to be a daily recreation of what would

be the all-time, all-heavy Nova Scotian party that somehow always begins and ends in the kitchen---with some of the planet's best musicians--- a partial listing including the likes of The Cottars, Jerry Holland and J.P.Cormier. This will truly be a ball, and all salutes to the gang at Fest for bringing this one in!! It'll all be August 17th through the 20th, 2006. Do you realize that the decade is more than half over? Good Lord.

Okay, we admit it. We are not reviewing new albums this month. We are swamped preparing for Christmas as we write this. Editor Cliff Carlson (known among the staff as the 'Joseph Goebbels of publishing') has pulled his usual Nazi trick of threatening any late columns with the scrap pile. And, we wanted you all to know about the new show. The good news is that there are some wonderful new albums we'll be covering next month including one from the greatest, Eilis Kennedy from Dingle, with her new vocal mas-

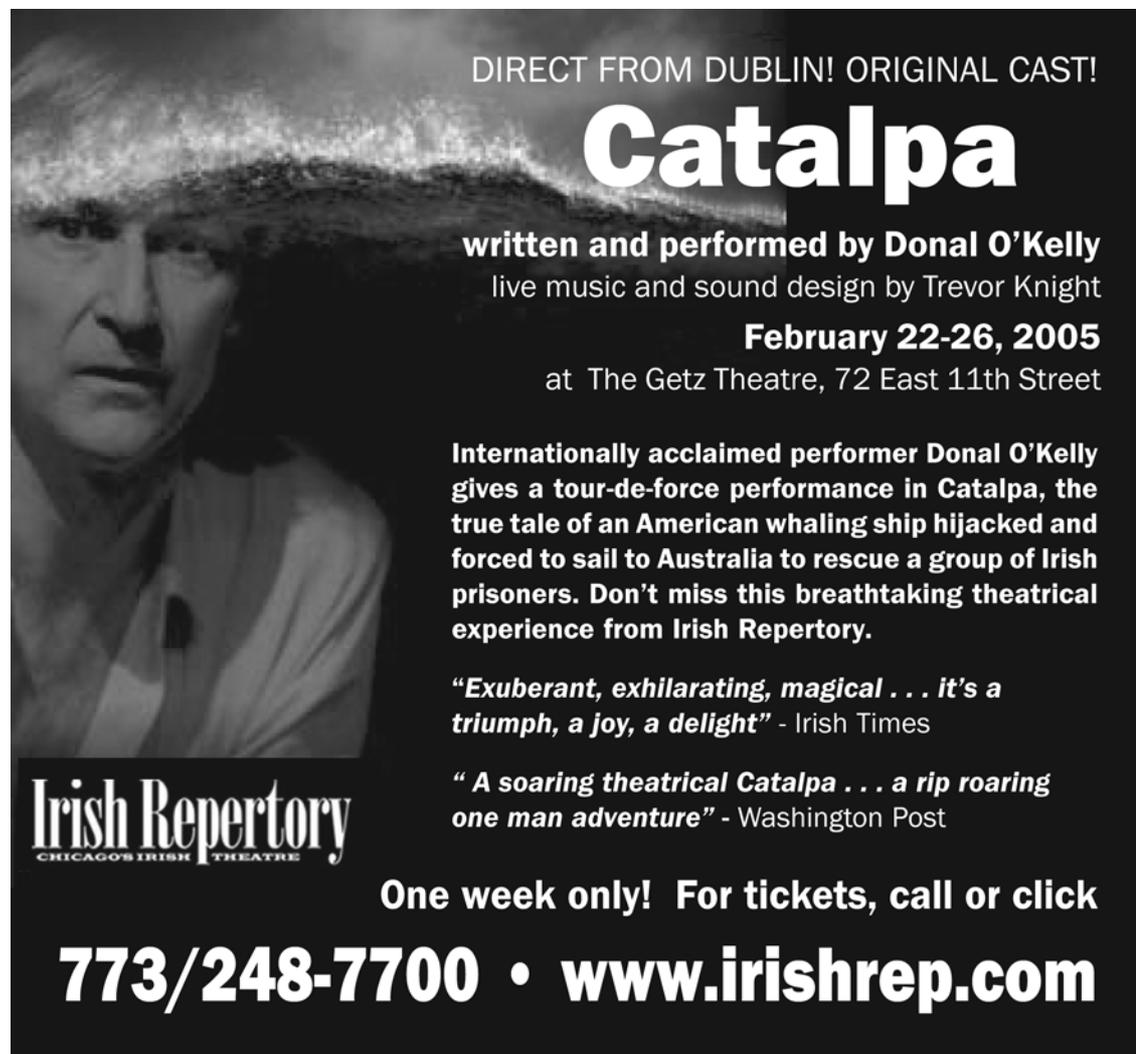
terpiece, One Sweet Kiss. Fiddler and musical maestro, Nollaig Casey checks in with a wonderful new piece of business. Many consider Noel Hill as the greatest concertina player in the history of Irish music, and he has his first new album out in something like 18 years (we wouldn't want to rush things). It is fab. And, there will be the usual new artists to intro. Great stuff, altogether.

Take a look at this month's LiveIreland.com on yer' 'puter. As the regular reader knows, we also serve as the Irish music writer for Dublin-based LiveIreland.com, which is far and away the web's most popular and successful Irish music site. This month, we're announcing the winners of The Livies. These are the best of the trad recordings released in 2005. Lots of surprises. We'll be in Dublin as you read this promoting The Livies. These Awards will be joined by our paper's, Top TIR Awards this March. Proper recognition for the best artists in the biz. Whew!! * Ta!

33rd Annual Snowflake Ball to take place on February 11

Tickets are now on sale for the Beverly Area Planning Association's (BAPA) 33rd annual Snowflake Ball on Sat., Feb. 11, 2006, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., at the Shannon Center, Saint Xavier University, 3700 W. 103rd St., Chicago. Performing dance music that night will be Lynn Jordan and the Shivers, and the SXU Jazz Band. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. They can be reserved by calling 773-233-3100, or during business hours at BAPA, 10233 S. Wood St., Chicago.

The Snowflake Ball is hosted by the Beverly Area Planning Association with the generous support of co-host and presenting sponsor Saint Xavier University and Grande Snowflake Sponsor Gilhooley's Grande Saloon at Saint Xavier University. The Snowflake Ball is BAPA's major annual fundraiser. BAPA is a not-for-profit community based organizations founded in 1947 to serve the Beverly Hills/Morgan Park neighborhood of Chicago. For more information, call 773-233-3100.



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Jim White, Pat and Conor Cunneen, John Devens, and Julia Dusek-Devens enjoying the fundraiser held for Irish Rep Theatre at O'Brien's Restaurant last month. White, and the Devens are with the band, Dyed in the Wool, and John Devens owns World Folk Music Co., on the southside of Chicago. Conor is the author of the book, "Why Ireland Never Invaded America." and a popular public speaker.

“Music is Served” Monday’s on 90.9 FM

‘Blarney Boys’ Bill Margeson and Shay Clarke on the air 7 pm. to 9 pm.

Shay Clarke

I was born in Dublin in the 50s and as my column in *Irish American News* states I was “Raised on Songs and Stories”.

I remember the first song that made me cry. I was seven or eight at the time and in my grandparent’s house in Kells, Co. Meath. The song was Kevin Barry and was sung a cappella by George Heery, a visitor to the house that night.

There was always music in the house of both my grandparents. There was always a button box accordion or a tin whistle.

But if the soul of Ireland is in our music then surely the heart of Ireland is in our songs. It’s always been about the songs for me. I called my daughter Saoirse after a beautiful piece of music by Sean O’Riada.

The music and styles came in quick succession from the Clancy Brothers, The Dubliners and the Wolfe Tones. In the 70s we had the Furey Brothers, Emmet Spiceland, The Bothy Band and Planxty. These were great times indeed, but I had been seduced by rock-and-roll and played guitar in a rock band for a while.

My return to the fold came with Horslips, the first Celtic rock band.

St. Margaret of Scotland’s Southside Saint Patrick’s Day party fundraiser

Come share the memories of St. Margaret’s of Scotland on February 26th. Since 1988 St. Margaret’s Parish has been in a very difficult financial situation. Although the situation is a little better now it never ends. Rather than just soliciting the funds by mail we offer you a great “Old Fashioned” St. Patrick’s Day party in the “Old Neighborhood”. The evening will start with a 6:00pm mass and will continue with a variety of special guests including Govoner Vaughn, one of the top players in Globetrotter history. Come listen to Deidre Reilly, Irish Americans “Country Colleen”, and Frank O’Hara and his “Right Material Band”, among others.

The donation of \$20 includes corned beef buffet, beer, soft drinks and entertainment. There’s plenty of free parking. For ticket information call Dan or Brian (708) 636-8827 weekends or weekday evenings.

The drummer Eamonn Carr was my cousin and his father before him was a Ceili band drummer with the Silver Star Ceili Band in Kells Co. Meath. Horslips were and still are the benchmark for Celtic rock and their music broke all the traditions while attracting a whole new generation of Celtic music fans.

I was a nightclub disc jockey from 15 years of age to 37, besides my real jobs in the travel, and fashion industry in Dublin. I ran a nightclub on Dublin’s famous Leeson St., Maxwell Plums before I came to America.

I came to America in 1987 and became a citizen 8 years later. I have often said that I only became Irish when I came to Chicago. I have promoted Celtic music through radio, festivals, *Irish American News*, concerts and pub gigs and I am fiercely proud of the wealth of Irish musical talent we have in this city and country.

Along with my buddy Bill Margeson, I promise you the most broad-based Celtic music show on radio. Please join us every Monday night on 90.9FM from 7-9 for Blarney

On The Air.

Bill Margeson

Bill is a native Chicagoan, and grew up in La Grange, IL. He graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1968 with a major in Speech. He paid his way through college working as a studio musician on a number of instruments, including guitar and harmonica. He was also a member of several rhythm and blues groups. Having married Maggie Watson in 1974, he found himself being the son-in-law of legendary Dennis Watson. Dennis was one of the leading Chicago Irish musicians of the 1920s and 30s. Originally from Curraghboy, Co. Roscommon in Ireland, he was a widely admired wooden flute and uilleann pipes player. Bill remembers, When I would go out to his home in the 1970’s on a Saturday morning, you could never tell who might be there playing and discussing music, as well as learning tunes from him. One or two of The Chieftains might drop by when they were in own, plus great musicians like piper Tommy Keane, whistle player Mary Bergin

Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



or fiddler Liz Carroll. It seemed as if there were hundreds!

Actually, Bill’s interest in Irish music was re-awakened at that time, but he had spent years in the 60’s playing for Irish dances in Chicago at the now long gone Boulevard Ballroom and other venues such as the Keyman’s Club. For the last 15 years, he has served as the traditional Irish music critic for Chicago’s *Irish American News*. He also reviews new, traditional albums on the world’s largest Irish music website,

LiveIreland.com based out of Dublin, Ireland. In addition, Bill is also a frequent contributor to *Irish Music Magazine*, also based out of Dublin. Through this international exposure, Bill is now the most widely read writer in the world on Irish traditional music.” It seems,” says Bill with a laugh, “that all those musicians who were at my father-in-law’s home are now at mine. And we love it!”

Bill and Shay can’t wait to bring the best in Celtic music to listeners and they will have a ball doing it!

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3rd Annual Ireland Network Black Tie Ball February 25

The Ireland Network invite you to join them for a night of fine dining and cocktails in the magnificent Grand Ballroom at the InterContinental Hotel on February 25th beginning with cocktails at 7 pm.

The evening will kick-off at 7 pm with cocktails. Dinner will follow at 8:00pm and the evening will continue with music and dancing to the sounds of the fabulous Orchestra 33, who were such a big hit last year that they were invited back. For preferential room rates,

please contact the InterContinental directly and reference the Ireland Network event.

Tickets are \$125 per person which includes dinner and a full open bar. This event is open to non-network members so feel free to invite whomever you wish. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis so reserve your table/tickets today with an R.S.V.P. to Rose.Whitehorne@ida.ie.

Checks should be made payable to Ireland Network Chicago and

sent to:

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Please include the mailing address where you wish to receive the tickets on all correspondence to ensure your tickets are mailed to the correct address.

For more details on the network or about the dinner go to www.irelandnetwork.net, or call Rose at 312-236-0222.

Debating Society competition

Trinity College Dublin's University Philosophical Society and AIB have teamed up to launch Phil Speaks. The World's Oldest Debating Society is hosting the

als from Archbishop Desmond Tutu in front of a large audience including two former Taoiseach and two Nobel Prize winners. The winner is also participating



second year of the prestigious competition which will see thousands of students learn the skills of public speaking.

Last year the winners of the competition spent a week working with politicians such as Minister for Justice Michael McDowell, Minister for Communication Noel Dempsey and Labour leader Pat Rabbitte. Students were presented with their med-

in the English Speaking Union's debating championships in Durham.

This year students will be debating for placements with top politicians. Prizes, such as a trip to Washington and MP3 players, will be presented in the spring by former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali. Over 150 schools are set to participate in Phil Speaks.



Kieran Conway will be performing every Tuesday in December at Bob O'Reilly's Pub (formerly known as Mary Todd's) from 8 pm to 11 pm at 695 LaGrange Road in Frankfort, and every Wednesday in December @ Gaelic Park from 9pm to 12am. 6119 West 147th St, Oak Forest. Call @ 708-687-9323 or visit kieranconway.com for more info.

Indie Music adds staff

Local writers Catherine Tully and Joe Wallace, already accomplished writers and photographers, have joined the staff of Indie-Music.com. They will be press and information contacts for independent musicians worldwide, publishing reviews and contributing to the website's listing of venues, promoters, independent music labels, and other resources.

Independent musicians can contact Tully and Wallace at ctully@freelance-zone.com and jwallace@freelance-zone.com, or send a CD and press kit to : Catherine Tully/J. Wallace, Indie-Music.com, PO Box 3339, Cary NC 27519-3339.



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Fitzpatrick Named Co-Chair of Duane Morris IP Litigation Practice

Duane Morris LLP has named Boston-based partner Anthony Fitzpatrick as the new Co-Chair of its burgeoning Intellectual Property Litigation Practice Group.

Tony joins Atlanta partner Louis "Woody" Jameson as co-chair of the IP Litigation Practice Group, which is becoming one of Duane Morris' widest national practice areas. During the past year, Woody has led the rapid expansion of Duane Morris' IP Litigation services.

Duane Morris' Intellectual Property Practice Group, chaired by Lewis Gould, which numbers more than 50 patent and trademark attorneys, has grown by nearly 50 percent in the last three years giving the firm one of the larger groups of patent and trademark attorneys practicing in a general practice law firm.

The firm's patent and trademark attorneys and its IP litigators are based in most of the firm's nationwide offices. The IP Practice Group handles matters across the country as well as internationally.

Like Woody, Tony is experienced in all forms of intellectual property disputes, with a concentration on patent and trade secret matters. Over the past decade he has litigated matters involving diverse technologies, with a particular focus on biotechnology, medical devices, and other life sciences. Tony has represented a number of the world's largest biotechnology companies in cases involving core



Former Taoiseach John Bruton (center) while in Chicago recently took out time to meet with IAN columnist Tom Boyle (left) and IAN publisher Cliff Carlson. Look for comments from that meeting in next issue.

products and technologies. He has been lead counsel at trial in a number of patent cases and has appeared before the United States International Trade Commission. Tony is also skilled in IP matters involving copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, rights of publicity, false advertising and the Internet.

Tony is admitted to practice in Massachusetts and his native Republic of Ireland. He holds law degrees from University College Dublin (Bachelor of Civil Law), the Honorable Society of King's Inns (Barrister-at-Law), and Boston University School of Law (J.D.). www.duanemorris.com.

St. Patrick's Day volunteers needed

The Young Irish Fellowship Club is looking for volunteers to help with ticket selling, fund raising, marketing and party planning. Get involved with the Young Irish Fellowship Club and make some new friends. Please contact Bridget McLaughlin at membership@youngirish.com if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions. With your help, we will make the 31st annual Forever Green an event to remember!

Join us at the Grand Ballroom for Forever Green 31, March 17, 2006!

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'The Fighting 69th' Film Unites 'Dixie,' 'Irishers'

By Liam Murphy, *TheWildGeese.com*

It was Confederate commander Robert E. Lee who first called the 69th New York Infantry regiment the "Fighting 69th," a sobriquet the unit, today part of the New York Army National Guard, still carries proudly. This nickname that would find its way onto theaters marquees across the United States in 1940, when Jimmy Cagney and Pat O'Brien helped further the regiment's fame in the popular movie "The Fighting 69th."

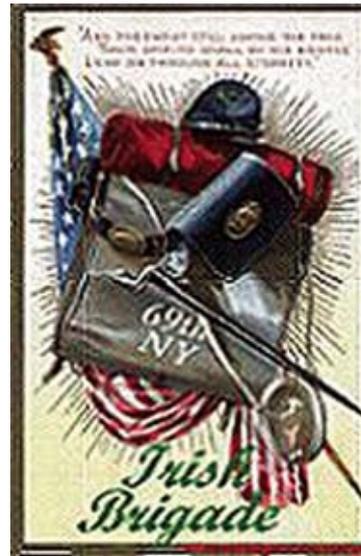
During World War I, the 69th was assigned to the Rainbow Division, along with National Guard units from many other states, including those from the former Confederacy. In a memorable scene, Irish-American soldiers find themselves face to face with that legacy, as Alabama guardsmen recall a confrontation between the one-time foes at Marye's Heights, during the December 1862 battle of Fredericksburg.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, son of a Vir-

ginia mother and a regular Union Army officer and Medal of Honor recipient, had personally assembled the Rainbow Division from the cream of National Guard regiments nationwide; he brigaded the Old 69th (temporarily redesignated the 165th U.S. Infantry) with the old 4th Alabama (soon redesignated the 167th U.S. Infantry, but formerly part of Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia) in the 85th Infantry Brigade.

This partnership elicited some comment when the Alabamians arrived in the frozen north to train with the 69th at Camp Mills on Long Island, a scene portrayed in the film. Guinan "Big Boy" Williams, portraying Paddy Dolan of the 69th, welcomed one of the Alabamians addressing him as "Dixie." The Southerner, after commenting on the cold weather, asked which unit Dolan was from, to which the answer was the 69th. A Southerner asked if that was the "69th Irish-

ers." Another Southerner then recognized the name, adding "we whup your pants." The Alabamians then got onto an altercation with "Big Boy," which threatened to



Heights had indeed been repulsed by the Army of Northern Virginia, which included the 4th Alabama. But he noted the Southerners were so impressed with the Irish Brigade's gallantry that they cheered them all along the Confederate line. In fact, the 4th Alabama was a part of Law's Brigade of Hood's Division (the right of Longstreet's Corps), and therefore not directly opposite the 69th. Hence, the regiment was in a position to both see and cheer the gallantry of the Irish Brigade.

After this, all was forgiven, and the units' record during the war reflected cooperation. The Confederate cheering that Brent's character related to the Southerners was not Hollywood invention, but fact, documented in a letter by Confederate Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett to his wife. In it he wrote: "Your Soldier's heart almost stood still as he watched those sons of Erin fearlessly rush to their death. The brilliant assault on Marye's Heights of their Irish Brigade was beyond description. Why, my darling, we forgot they were fighting us, and cheer after cheer at their fearlessness went up all along our lines."

Tradition holds that when Robert E. Lee was informed that the 69th (which had performed so gallantly during the Seven Days Battles and the Peninsula Campaign as well as at Bull Run) had taken the field at Fredericksburg, Lee remarked, "Ah, yes, that Fighting 69th." The rest, as they say, is history.

develop into a riot until the intervention of Father Francis Duffy, chaplain of the 69th (played by Pat O'Brien) and Colonel "Wild Bill" Donovan, commanding officer of the 69th (portrayed by Shannonbridge, County Dublin native George Brent).

In the scene, Donovan, who would later become the nation's top spymaster as director of the Office of Strategic Services in World War 2, explained that the assault of the Irish Brigade (including the 69th New York Volunteer Infantry) on Marye's



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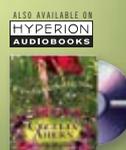
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Is This Traditional?

by Bill Margeson

Okay, this gets interesting.

The five-member group, The Bridies, may well be the hottest thing out of Ireland right now. Much of the current buzz and notoriety started with what is the cleverest, most hysterical, intelligent and satirical take on Ireland in decades. Entitled, A Nice Bit A' Ham from the new album 13, the song takes an insightful, devastating and loving look at rural Irish culture. It received massive airplay in Ireland, sold a ton and threw the band into the national spotlight. It also stirred the controversy, but let's save that for a bit later.

Credentials come first! The flash and craic in the group on stage is led by the two fiddlers, Maire Egan and Brenda Curtin. Maire is from Offaly, and Brenda from Tournafulla, Co. Limerick. Both come from families steeped in traditional music. We won't get boringly specific here, but these girls' curriculum vitae include numerous All-Ireland titles on fiddle, bodhrán and lilting, with Brenda also checking in with a BA Degree in music. As the mega-hit, dance-show wonders of Ireland, both Lord of the Dance and Riverdance could have their choice from the greatest Irish musicians, it is more than slightly telling that both productions chose Maire and Brenda as featured soloists with their shows. No disagreement here, both are superb musicians and beautiful singers, well grounded in the tradition.

Maire's sister, Eilis may well be the traditional soul of the group. On stage with The Bridies she plays keyboards, flute, percussion and box. One of the musicians from the original Riverdance orchestra, playing her two-and-a-half row C# D Saltarelle button box, Eilis is also a founding member of the seminal trad band of the 90's, Reeltime. One of Ireland's most sought-after session musicians, she has also performed with The Frankie Gavin Quartet, fellow Riverdance musician, Eileen Iver's show, and is a featured soloist with the RTE Concert Orchestra.

Drummer and vocalist Michelle Mulhaire comes from a solid trad background, but with a twist. Granddaughter of the legendary traditional musician and composer, Tommy Mulhaire, her career was heretofore more in the rock, pop and jazz areas. Michelle grew up listening to her dad Brendan, legend of the showband era in Ireland in the 60's, and uncle Martin, renowned accordionist in New York. She also plays a solid guitar and shares the group's lead singing responsibilities.

Guitarist Michael Galvin has led such a varied professional career, suffice it to say he is in huge demand as a studio musician and concert performer. Regarded by many of the cognoscenti



as the best guitar player in Ireland, (an assertion which embarrasses him and is certainly unprovable), the fact he is considered in that echelon tells all.

The Bridies were born in Las Vegas of all places! They came together centered around the production of Lord of the Dance, then housed at the hotel-casino New York New York. The show later moved to The Venetian for yet another successful run when Brenda and Maire started performing together as The Bridies on their Monday nights off. The bookings and attention generated the band as it is now known. The group decided to take the big leap, leave Lord of the Dance and set off on a series of performances designed to make The Bridies into a viable full-time gig. Occasionally, Brenda and Maire re-join Michael Flatley such as when they opened the North American swing of his new show, Celtic Tiger, by performing with him in Toronto, Boston and New York. Then, back to The Bridies.

Because of their talent and long-earned connections in the business, The Bridies started to tour almost immediately. They were flying just under the big-time radar, as far as the general public was concerned, but all that changed with this year's Nice Bit A' Ham.

Bam! Front and center! Seldom has an Irish group been better prepared for the whirlwind that has followed. Mature, professionally seasoned and with a real perspective, the musicians are loving every minute of the journey now.

Introduced in a major venue to American audiences through the legendary Milwaukee Irish Fest last August, the band had three to four thousand fans on their feet at each show. The Bridies had thundered onto the scene for the Yanks.

Happy beginning. Happy ending. Happy story. Nothing is that easy and rosy, is it? Especially in Irish music.

With all the success and growing fame, there have been few if any, more controversial acts in Irish music in the last decade. Maybe ever. It is because of their very success itself, and the

fact that they are female (save of course guitarist and latecomer to the group, Mike Galvin) All art forms are liberally salted with jealousy, condescension and "holier than thou". Irish music is no exception, to say the least. Certainly, The Bridies have intentionally and joyously added to the controversy themselves.

The show. Imagine Riverdance without the dancing. Well actually, there is dancing, let's just not use the word "traditional". The band is surely the hardest working group onstage in Irish music. Few would argue that. Here come the problems. The Show is unbelievably energetic, funny, bold, brassy, bright . . . and brace yourself..... SEXY !!. The music ranges from a wonderful, solidly traditional take on a trad classic such as The Moving Cloud, to a closing number of the Isley Brothers' 1959 rock classic, Shout. All of it is "full on", be it album or live performance. Add to all of this to the group's intense interaction with the audience, and you begin to get the picture.

Now, all this entertaining assault is too much for many of the Magic 200. The Magic 200 are the "auld ones". They have been around, or performed Irish music, in some cases for decades. No one knows how many there actually are. No one knows how to join the group. No one knows who they are. They don't themselves know that they are in the group. Nevertheless, the Magic 200 opinions on these matters are supposed to count. "Is this Irish?", and "Is this traditional?" are the 200's obsessive and key concerns. The judgment is passed and the moving finger moves on. Here are The Top Ten Criteria if you want to be condemned by The 200. When it comes to this list, The Bridies score a perfect 10:

1. Become highly popular. Have three thousand at a performance yelling, laughing and dancing in the seats. No one can tell you what "too popular" is, but it exists and must not be ignored!

2. Have a hit record that is not fully traditional.

3. Be female. Cherish The Ladies gets a pass, but they had to work their hearts out for years to get that

pass, while The 200 decided.

4. Be aggressive. The 200's antennae were on high alert when, early on, Bridie, Eilis Egan stated, "We plan to do for Irish music what Michael Flatley did for Irish dancing." That alone set them spinning.

5. God forbid, be sexy, in a harmless, family-oriented way, and DO NOT SWING YOUR TUSH ONSTAGE!! EVER!!

6. Do not "take your place and wait your turn".

7. Really, deeply, truly enjoy yourself onstage or off.

8. Refuse to sing at least one depressing song in each set. (Current joke making the musicians' rounds. "Be like the Irish boomerang. It never returns. It just sings about how much it wants to.")

9. Be somehow, "not Irish" . . . whatever that means.

10. Refuse to play a Michael Coleman tune exactly as he did, while you make a lot of money.

There are more, but you get the drift. There were one or two of The Magic 200 at Milwaukee, and they "pronounced". The Bridies were neither Irish nor traditional! "Over the top." Here's the secret. The Bridies could care less. This is a confident group of musicians. "No one loves to go to a seison in a pub more than I do," states Maire. "I'm the first one to stay until 4:00 in the morning, but there is more." "More" is what The Bridies are about. We don't remember a bolder group of women on the Irish music stage. Or one more talented.

A group like The Bridies challenges the fundamental assumptions of traditional music. Contrary to what some think, there was never a time when you could point and say, "Now, this is when Irish music was the real deal. Traditional." Those who think there was such a moment fail to understand the art form itself, or music in general. If you want to get a great debate going with trad musicians and fans, simply ask them what traditional Irish music is. Sit back and watch the fur fly. We have seen two of the greatest Irish trad musicians in history, Paul Brock and Manus McGuire debate the issue. We remember asking Paddy Maloney of The Chieftains what trad music is, "Oh, no no. That's a trap," he laughingly responded. Morrison and Coleman changed the tunes as they played them. So did pianist, Eleanor Neary--maybe just a tiny bit, but rest assured she had her own take for Pigeon On The Gate. Ruby Murray had her version of If I Were A Blackbird. No one sang Molly Malone like Frank Harte. Or, Margaret Barry's, The Factory Girl. This is what makes any form of music vibrant in the first place. Each artist brings his or her own ap-

petite to the table. Traditional music embodies and thrives on that fact.

When questioned about the flash factor, Michelle wades in with a smile, "We ARE over the top! Look, we exist to entertain our audience. We have a deep respect and love for traditional music and it is the very bedrock of what we do. But, we are flashy. That's the whole point! When we draw thousands to a show, or were asked to perform at Croke Park, Centre Field, for the All-Ireland Hurling Quarter Final last August, we know we are entertaining people."

In less than two years, the group has produced two albums. The first was 4 and 9, and it had a fair bit of play and notice on Irish radio and in the press. It really was, however, 13 that jump-started the wider popularity and exposure. The group is touring Ireland at the moment launching the new album. Be it a documentary for BBC Northern Ireland last year, a coming tour of the Middle East, or a return to Irish Fest in Milwaukee, the calendar is filling earlier and earlier.

None of the success, however, answers The 200's questions or criticisms. Forget for a moment that The Bridies ignore them. Is there merit to the criticisms? Depends on your point of view. First, it is incredibly arrogant and stupid to comment that "what they do is not 'Irish.'" Bunk. Is U2 Irish? Is Riverdance Irish? Pierce Brosnan? Popular artist, Michael Fitzharris? Of course. So, an inside word to The 200 -- drop the "non-Irish" bit. It makes you look silly.

Now, on to the part where The Bridies are accused of being "not traditional." They aren't. Key point here. They never claimed to be. It is, however, unarguable that what they do is almost all traditionally based. But, to accuse The Bridies of not being traditional misses the point. It is like condemning Jaws for not being a comedy. Right. And, your point?

We are well old enough to remember the day when legend Bob Dylan plugged in and played an electric guitar instead of an acoustic one at the Newport, Rhode Island Folk Festival in the 60's. Furor. Storms. Opinionated aggro left and right. Threats. Musical Armageddon! The Folk 200 (yes, there is also a Folk 200) weighed in, and were busy chewing on Dylan when another legend, Johnny Cash, weighed in. "Let the boy sing." With that still-remembered and eloquent quote, Cash ended the matter then and there. That great Irish character, Maggie Barry bought this writer his first Guinness in the 60's. When asked about the different kinds of music and their relative merits, she memorably replied, "Ahh, it's all music, isn't it?" Yes, Maggie, it is.

Dying Together: From Bull Run to Baghdad

By Joseph E. Gannon,
TheWildGeese.com

Millions of people across the world were horrified when they heard reports of the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. One such group was far from home and surely more horrified than any other: the men and women of the Louisiana Army National Guard in Iraq. Now

they have returned home, but for some it may not be to the same lives they left behind a year ago.

While in Iraq they served with another group of soldiers who became familiar with immense tragedy: The famous "Fighting" 69th of the New York Army National Guard, which was called upon to assist their fellow New

Yorkers on 9/11. This was not the first close contact between the 69th and combat units from Louisiana, however.

On a late afternoon of a pleasant

which would come to be known as "Lee's Foreign Legion," included many men from Ireland. No doubt at some point in the tangle of humanity Irishmen fought

Iraq, six National Guard soldiers from Louisiana and one from New York, serving in the 256th Infantry Brigade, the "Tiger" Brigade, died in the same Bradley fighting vehicle, after a roadside bomb detonated. Louisianians and a New Yorker, dying together again, 142 years later, but this time fighting a common enemy.

The New Yorker was newly wed Kenneth VonRonn, from upstate Pine Bush. The Louisianians were Kurt Comeaux, of Raceland; Huey Fassbender, of LaPlace; Warren Murphy; of Marrero; and three men from Houma, with a population of about 30,000: Bradley Bergeron, Christopher Babin, and Armand Frickey. That three from a town could perish while serving together in a conflict illustrates a danger that exists in National Guard units. As was the case in the Civil War, volunteer units from whom many Guard units trace their lineage: Bad news from the battlefield can wreak tremendous pain on small communities.

The 256th Infantry "Tiger" Brigade (Mechanized) is based in Louisiana, and traces its nickname to the 1st Special Louisiana "Tiger" Battalion of the Civil War. During its deployment to Iraq, it included National Guard troops from Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as the men of the 69th. The permanent units of the 256th include the 156th Infantry and the 141st Field



July 1st, southeast of Richmond, Va., in 1862, grimly determined men dressed in blue from the 69th and 88th New York Volunteers of the Irish Brigade were ordered into a wooded section of Malvern Hill. There, they encountered equally determined men wearing gray, including the men of the 10th Louisiana Volunteers.

Soldiers seldom met in hand-to-hand fighting during the American Civil War, but on this occasion they did. Face to face, they killed and wounded each other with bayonets, bowie knives, clubbed muskets, and bare hands. The 10th Louisiana,

Irishmen
When it was over the Confederates had been repulsed with heavy losses, but the New York regiments had suffered, too, losing 22 killed and more than 100 wounded. The 10th had lost 22 dead and 36 wounded, with 26 captured, including their commanding officer, Colonel Waggaman. The dead and wounded were strewn along the ground, as they had been at the first major battle at Bull Run and would be in every major battle in the East during the war.

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Artillery of the Louisiana National Guard. The 141st Field Artillery was formed as the Washington Artillery in 1838 and first fought with Zachary Taylor in the Mexican War. During the Civil War it was, arguably, the most famous artillery unit of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. On Dec. 13, 1862, its guns, frowning down from Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg, Va., helped repulse the desperate charge that included the 69th and the rest of the Irish Brigade.

The 156th Infantry's history predates Louisiana's statehood, and it has something in common with the 69th: There is an Irish element to its origins. The 156th traces its history to the "The Regiment of City Militia" of New Orleans, organized in 1769 by the governor of Louisiana province. The province was then under Spain's control, and the man whom the Spanish had appointed governor of the province was General Don Alejandro "Bloody" O'Reilly, born in Baltrasna, County Meath, in 1723.

The 69th has often invoked its spiritual connection to the Irish Brigade that served in the French army

for 100 years preceding the French Revolution. In the Union Army, Irish Brigade commander Thomas Francis Meagher at times used the battle cry, "Remember Fontenoy," referring to the greatest victory of France's Irish Brigade.

Spain also had a long history of



Irishmen serving in its army, extending into the 19th century. One of the most famous was the Hibernia Regiment, formed in 1710. O'Reilly served in that regiment, joining it as a cadet while still a child. He eventually rose so high in the esteem of the Spanish government that he was sent to retake the Louisiana province in 1769, following a revolt there by French residents. This he

did, earning his sobriquet, "Bloody," by executing six of the insurrection leaders, and forming militia regiments to help control the region. Thus, through him, the 156th can claim connection to the Irish regiments of Spain.

The 156th has continued on in some form. In the Civil War, it became the 2nd and 3rd Louisiana Volunteer Infantry regiments.

The 2nd fought in all major battles of Lee's Army from the spring of 1862 through the war's end. In nearly every one, the soldiers of the 69th were fighting on the other side. That included Malvern Hill, where the two units fought on different parts of the field.

In the end, 10 men of the 69th lost their lives in Iraq, and 9 soldiers from Louisiana died while serving with the 69th. Many of the Louisiana guardsmen were from the New Orleans area. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, they found themselves more worried about their friends and family at home than about their own well-being. The town of Houma, which lost three of its sons in one day in January in Iraq, has been hosting refugees from

New Orleans.

The days when soldiers from Louisiana and New York were trying to kill each other is a part of history. The men of these storied military units are now

comrades who fought, and in some cases, died, together, on the roads and fields in Iraq. These former foes' service represents yet a new chapter in American military history.

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Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago Administrator, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



Winter is always a tough time for people who are struggling to make ends meet—and this winter, with its early onset of bitter cold and lots of snow, is already compounding the perpetual problems faced by people at the lower end of the earning scale, or living on a fixed income.

This year, unusually high heating bills and other factors are making life harder for more people who can least afford it. Here are some “signs of the times” that Catholic Charities is seeing this winter that affect seniors in particular.

While many seniors manage comfortably on pensions, social security and investment income, most live on fixed incomes without other resources. Joan McConnell, Catholic Charities’ Senior Specialist, who also oversees all phone requests for help coming into Catholic Charities Information and Referral Department from callers of all ages, tells me

that we now average 300 calls a day from Chicago alone! The majority of calls are for emergency assistance: food, clothing, shelter, rent, utilities. Normally, through the excellent efforts of Catholic Charities’ Emergency Assistance Department, we can meet the needs of most of our callers. But in the winter, hard as we try, we can help only about 150 people a day, because more requests for utilities payments take up more of our available funds. We refer people we can’t help to other agencies and sources of funding for which they may be qualified.

Joan herself takes all the calls from seniors over 60 years of age. In December, Joan noticed two alarming trends: seniors’ requests switched to rent and mortgage; and she has received “an enormous number of calls this year versus last year for heat!” She expects this number to go up. The reasons are simple: most seniors who call us are on fixed incomes;

they have to pay rent, eat and pay utilities; and some receive only \$500 per month to live on.

Catholic Charities caseworkers work hard to help poor seniors obtain help from a variety of sources for a variety of problems such as: Commodity Supplemental Food Programs for nutrition; Illinois Cares RX and Medicaid for pharmaceutical assistance; Homestead Exemptions and Circuit Breakers for tax relief. These are just a few ways we try to help our seniors’ dollars “stretch” further.

In addition, we help them access LiHeap, Homeless Prevention and other grants and strongly encourage them to make “good faith payments” to the utilities companies. Despite all these conscientious efforts, however, seniors and others on fixed incomes sink deeper and deeper into debt every year. Their income is so small and their gas heating debts are so large that they live in constant danger of having their heat shut off. Government, industry, businesses, utility companies and non-profit agencies must all work together to redouble efforts to assist and protect our neediest low-income elderly.

A similar pattern of greater needs and growing numbers of seniors has emerged in the suburbs.

For example, Catholic Charities’ North and Northwest suburban regions recently launched a Tuesday Evening Supper in addition to their Thursday meal, which hosted 80 people. Now 50-60 guests enjoy each hot, sit-down meal served at Catholic Charities Family Services Center at 1717 Rand Road in Des Plaines. Last year, a clothing room was added.

Homeless guests comprise about a third of our diners, a third are low-income families whose breadwinner is usually underemployed or underpaid; and the final third of our guests are over 65 years of age. While the elderly are not homeless, they do live on rigid, fixed incomes. But many more seniors now patronize the Northwest region’s food pantry

as they try to balance their budgets between medication, rent, food, clothing and utilities; and take advantage of the commodity foods that are part of Catholic Charities’ Mother and Child Food and Nutrition program.

Although this winter promises to be difficult, particularly for low- or fixed-income seniors, Catholic Charities is determined to make this New Year warmer and brighter for seniors in need. If you can help, visit our web site at www.catholiccharities.net, and click on “Donate,” or mail to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, c/o Emergency Assistance, 721 N. LaSalle St., 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60610. If you need help, please call (312) 655-7717.



Bridget McLaughlin with candidate for State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis at The Irish Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

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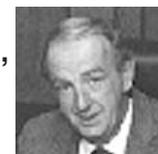
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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard

Conflicting Views on Immigration Reform

On November 17, the House Homeland Security Committee, under the leadership of Peter King (R-NY) passed a Border Enforcement only bill, which was supported by Republicans and Democrats. The new legislation authorizes more funding for Border Patrol agents, funds physical barriers and surveillance technology, and promotes cross-border international agreements. The legislation's next stop is the House Judiciary Committee, whose chair, Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), has been working on his own border security legislation.

But members who favor a comprehensive immigration bill -- one that includes a guestworker plan -- are complaining that House leaders are taking too narrow an approach by focusing only on the borders and not on other changes in immigration policies.

Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., is co-sponsoring legislation that includes a guestworker program that would allow workers to ultimately apply for permanent citizenship. "Everyone knows if you're going to have enforcement, you have to have laws you can enforce," Flake said. "I think [leaders] want to make a statement that we're doing something because we haven't gotten off the dime; they just want a statement bill."

In the Senate...

The next day (November 18), a bipartisan group of Senators officially introduced S. 2075, the DREAM Act of 2005, giving new life to legislation that has been in a holding pattern since the beginning of the year.

The sponsors of the DREAM Act of 2005 are Richard Durbin (D-IL), Chuck Hagel (R-NE) and Richard



Lugar (R-IN). The DREAM Act permits undocumented high school graduates who immigrated to the U.S. as minors and who have lived in the U.S. for at least five years, to apply for legal status, pursue a college education or join the military and become U.S. citizens. It will become law if passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the President before the end of 2006.

Meanwhile,

The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Arlen Specter, has circulated a draft of a compromise immigration bill that does not include guest worker provisions favored by President Bush, but does favor dramatic increases in legal immigration limits in the United States.

In a letter to colleagues, Mr. Specter called his document "a discussion draft intended to move the debate forward in anticipation of the Senate taking up immigration reform early next year." He added, "I do not necessarily endorse every provision included."

Specter has agreed with a number of his colleagues' proposals (Cornyn/Kyl) including one to allow illegal aliens to return home and then re-enter the U.S. on a path to citizenship.

Senator Specter would increase the cap on family preference immigrants by 254,000 a year, raise the cap on employment-based visa by 150,000 a year, "recapture" unused visas and exempt family members from caps as well, thereby greatly increasing the number of green cards available.

Senate aides said Mr. Specter's draft served as a marker to ensure that his committee would play a role in shaping any legislation. By starting the debate,

he has made it harder for Senate leaders to take up on the floor a more restrictive immigration bill that might be passed by the House, where conservative opponents of the president's proposal have a stronger hand.

And, finally...

At the end of November President Bush visited several Southwest states to publicize his plan to solve the immigration crisis. He promoted what he called a three-point plan, with the first point being the "prompt return of every illegal entrant we catch on the border, with no exceptions." The second, he said, is to correct "weak and unnecessary provisions in our immigration laws." And the third: he said he and Congress would create a new temporary guest-worker plan to match willing employers with workers who will do jobs "Americans will not do."

Best Wishes

On behalf of all at C.I.I.S I take this opportunity to wish our readers and supporters a blessed New Year. It is our fervent prayer that 2006 will bring one and all every success. We hope and pray especially that all our undocumented brothers and sisters may receive the long awaited and desperately needed immigration law changes that would permit them to experience all the benefits that this great country has to offer.

Should you have any comments, questions etc. please feel free to contact me at 312-337-8445 Cell. 773-677-5341 or E-mail: siochan@catholic.org



Jack Hartman; the new president of the Irish Fellowship Club, and Terrence O'Brien; president of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, enjoying the Irish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon.



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Prayer To The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

"IRELAND 2006 see Athlone & District Tourist Guide. log on to www.acis.ie"

Irish Language School at IAHC

The winter semester of Irish School, Scoil Na bPaisti, will begin classes at the IAHC on Saturday, January 7. The six week session runs through February 11.

On Saturday mornings, from 8:45am to noon, children, ages 6-14 years old, will learn about Irish heritage, customs, language, art and music through drama, story telling, crafts and games.

This semester's curriculum for the younger students, "Ireland: Her Land and People", for children ages aged 6-11, will focus Irish folk and fairy tales. The Irish language program, taught by Brian Doyle will continue for ages 6-15, will its program, focusing on basic vocabulary, greetings, songs and poems in the modern Irish language.

The Teen Arts Club will

continue its study of the Irish and Irish Americans and their involvement in the arts, politics, the media and public service. The students will also study contemporary Irish poets, such as Seamus Heaney and Michael Hartnett and write poetry of their own.

Tuition for Irish School classes are \$45 for Center members and \$60 for non-members. Students who enroll for the full school year for any three classes, one per session, are eligible for a discount of \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members for the full year. Irish language classes cost \$35 for each session for members and \$50 for non-members or \$70 for members or \$120 for non-members for the full year.

For more information call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Quiz Night at the IAHC

The Center has been hosting this challenging night for many years and is a fun way to test your trivia knowledge. There will be a different quizmaster each month, so the styles of the quizzes will vary. The first quiz is Friday, January 20 at 8pm and costs \$30 per team, with no more than six players per team. Food and drinks are available from the Fifth Province Pub.

Other quiz night are February 24, March 24, April 21, May 16. 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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Houlihan and Sons go Hollywood

“Houlihan and Sons” sounds like the punch line for one of his jokes, but *Irish American News* columnist Mike Houlihan is serious about the family business. Bill and Paddy Houlihan are Mike’s twin sons and 2006 marks the dawning of their latest endeavor, as they prepare to make their stage play, *Tapioca*, into a movie.

to a younger audience and an expanding demographic of youthful entrepreneurs. “We’re in the business of communication, and we’re no longer going to be recognized as one personality but a triple threat of equally talented ideas with a fresh and innovative approach. My experience and my sons’ charisma and energy present new ways to entertain,



“Yeah, we’re going to work for the old man,” says Bill. His brother Paddy says with a laugh, “It’s either the most inspired move in my career or the biggest mistake I’ve ever made.”

Mike says, “They’ve been on my dime since day one, so they might as well pull their weight.”

Mike Houlihan has been running his own business in one way or another since returning to his hometown of Chicago in 1985. He spent a dozen years previous to that in New York, where he paid his dues as an actor and producer.

He returned to Chicago to direct and produce former NBC political commentator Peter Nolan’s hit comedy *The 51st Ward*. Houlihan then went into partnership with Nolan, where he acquired an expertise in TV, radio, and film production. Mike then struck out on his own in 1991 with Mike Houlihan Creative. Since then he has produced a series of award winning plays, public relations campaigns, and unforgettable TV and radio commercials for clients like the Illinois Department on Aging, Metra, the Chicago Board of Trade, the Brick Marketing Council, and numerous political candidates. The hallmark of Houlihan’s work in print, radio and TV is the unforgettable humor he brings to each campaign. Folks in Chicago are still chuckling over Mike’s “flamshooter” spots for the Plumbing Council of Chicagoland, and he performed his hit comedy GOIN’ EAST ON ASHLAND for six years all over town. Mike wrote the popular “Houli in ‘da Hood” column in the Chicago Sun-Times for three years and continues to contribute occasional feature articles to the paper.

Houlihan sees the inclusion of his sons to the business as a direct response

inform, and communicate the message of our clients to an audience.”

The young men, (both 25), are recent graduates from Columbia College Chicago. Bill was a marketing major while Paddy studied film with a concentration on screenwriting. The two brothers first joined their dad onstage in the 2004 comedy “experiment”, *TAPIOCA*.

TAPIOCA was a stage comedy written by Mike, with help from his sons, that included original music and sketches with a theme centered on Chicago’s homeless. They enjoyed acting together and recently started work on a film loosely based on the characters from *TAPIOCA*.

“*Tapioca*”, the film, was written by Mike and Paddy. Paddy will direct the film while Mike stars as “Pipes McGonigle”, a stand-up comic that finds himself homeless after a magical encounter with a Streetwise vendor. Paddy says, “It’s a movie about the everyman, religion, racism, the dreamer and of course a comedian. ‘*Tapioca*’ is a comic tale of redemption shot on the streets of Chicago.” Bill and Paddy Houlihan also have feature roles in the film.

Back in September the father and sons traveled to Hollywood to promote the film and it was there, “in an unusual moment of clarity”, Mike says, that the family business was born. The trio recalled how, while working on the stage performance of *Tapioca*, they realized they had tapped into something unique and special. Mike says, “The boys had enlisted the help of their friends Steve Fleming, Vince Mammoser, Clay O’Brien, and Kevin Horan, while I had enlisted the help of my friends and veteran actors Mike McNeal, and Jack McCabe. The collaboration between young and old allowed the show to take a shape

of it’s own. The frame of reference became so much larger because of our different takes on what makes something funny, and when ideas of different generations come together, great things happen!”

“The boys were willing to take a risk, and that risk turned out to be a beneficial one.” Bill adds, “I knew that going into business with my dad was not going to be an easy task. The fights at home while growing up were sometimes like Armageddon, but we always seemed to get past them to eventually tell some really funny stories. I know that all success stories come with a great bit of struggle, and at Houlihan Creative we will overcome all adversity to create great benefits for our clients.”

2006 projects include the film of *Tapioca*, a slate of political public relations campaigns, event planning and marketing events. Mike says, “Paddy will direct the film. Bill will help coordinate our sports marketing events through our friends at the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame, and dad will cash the checks.”

Houlihan Creative is seeking a select clientele requiring media relations, marketing assistance, TV and radio commercial production. It’s a full-service boutique shop taking an enormous leap into new and creative ways of marketing and selling products and ideas.

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Registration information and photos of recent events

available on the website at <http://sets.sulliasociates.com>

The Sliabh Luachra is a region in Ireland, located around the River Blackwater, on the Cork/Kerry Borderland. This region has a unique musical style, which

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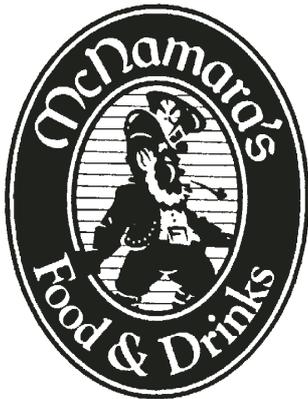
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'President Mary Mc Aleese receiving a copy of the "Centenary History of Hermitage Golf Club" from club Captain Andy Brennan. On left is the author of the book and columnist for Irish American News, Sean Og O Ceallachain and on right, former Club Captain Eamon Doyle.



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The Shamrock Lodge Countryhouse Hotel & Conference Centre is located in the very center of Ireland in the historic town of Athlone. From the moment you enter the elegant reception area you will find a warmth and graciousness which sets the style for the entire hotel. Throughout, the emphasis is on tasteful surroundings and traditional Irish hospitality. The Hotel, which began life as the home of Michael Monks in 1814 was immaculately restored and refurbished in 1991 with every modern facility while still retaining the



country house atmosphere.

The hotel has welcomed many distinguished guests during the last century including Queen Salote of Tonga, Prince Ranier and Princess Grace of Monaco, former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, William Taft III, former Presidents of Ireland Sean T. Kelly and Dr. Patrick Hillary, former Taoiseach Mr. Jack Lynch. In more recent years George Best, former President of Ireland Mrs. Mary Robinson, and current Taoiseach Mr. Bertie Ahern and other members of State.

Athlone itself is a town steeped in history. The Normans built the town walls in 1257. Part of these walls are still in evidence and the 13th Century Castle predominates the west bank of the River Shannon. Only a few kilometres from the town is the impressive medieval site of Clonmacnoise founded in 548 A.D. It became a monastic city and flourished under the patronage of various Kings including the last High King Rory O' Connor whose remains are buried there (1198A.D.) The town also has many attractive additions such as sight-seeing, golfing and cruising on the river Shannon. You can mix business with pleasure in the scenic center of Ireland. www.shamrocklodgehotel.com

CRCP provides student assistance and employment

The Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP) is a public/private partnership between higher education and business that enables Illinois residents to further their education and gain sustained entry into the Illinois workforce. CRCP provides its goal-oriented participants with a comprehensive student assistance package to obtain a degree at an Illinois college/university, then



Pictured from left, Senator, Edward Maloney (18th Dist.); Julie Crowley, CSU; Senate President, Emil Jones, Jr. (14th Dist.); John O'Neill III, UPS.

the employment component of the program provides students with valuable work experience and transferable skills, while meeting the

needs of business. With their newly-acquired skills, program graduates will be able to fill employment shortages across the state. There are four partner schools, Chicago State U (CSU); Moraine Valley Community College; (MVCC); Morton College (MC); and Prairie State College (PSC).



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21 Peggy Kinnanes - 10pm Arlington Heights, IL

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Short Works by Samuel Becket January 13-15

Short Works by Samuel Beckett, January 13-15, 2006, at 7:30 pm, Not I: A Samuel Beckett Centenary Celebration

No Danger of the Spiritual Thing: Short Works by Samuel Beckett is a series of short plays celebrating the 100th birthday of Samuel Beckett, the prolific Nobel Prize-winning Irish playwright, novelist, and poet.

Presented by The Museum of Contemporary Art and Curious Theatre Branch, this intimate event features Chicago's

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McKenna Ensemble presents "The Comedienne of Heaven"

the Western Hemisphere Premiere of an Italian Baroque opera composed in 1668 and presented at the Roman Carnival by Antonio Maria Abbatini (of the Sistine Choir). The Libretto of "La Baltasara, ovviso La Comica del Cielo" was Giulio Rospigliosi, then Pope Clement IX.

This important work has lain in obscurity in the Vatican Apostolic Library, and I have made an edition of the second act in modern notation, a decade's labor of love with the florid Italian verse and the marvelous 17th-century ambience of the Rome of Clemente Nono. With the help of early music specialist, Andrew Warwick Edwards). We hope you come and enjoy "The Comedienne Of Heaven."

A Kinetic Evening

Audiences are assigned to small groups and are led by performing docents to each of four or five plays. On Sunday, January 15, at 3 pm, a special performance of Texts for Nothing is performed by 13 Chicago artists.

MCA Box Office, 312.397.4010 or www.mcachicago.org.

stars like Carol LoVerde and Donna Sadlicka (who created the role of Brigid in the Greeley/McKenna opera, "The Magic Cup" 1988), the concert will be at:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, 1224 W. Lexington Avenue, in the heart of Chicago's U of I Circle Campus neighborhood on Sunday, February 5, 2006 at 3:00 P.M.

Freewill offerings will be received gratefully.

We are most grateful for the help of the Glasgow Early Music Consort which presented the first known modern performance of this work in 1992 (John C. Barnes, Kate Brown,




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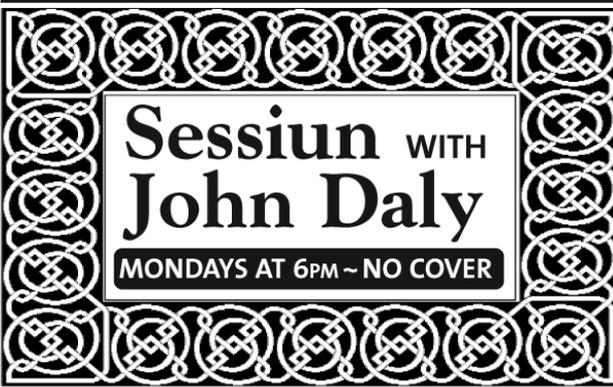
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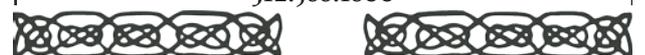
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Commodore John Barry and Annapolis' Irish traditions

By Ed Lowe, Photos by Lois A. Lowe

George Washington learned his military skills from the British when he fought at their side during the French and Indian Wars in the 1750's. The tactics and traditions of the British military stayed with him when he was appointed Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Forces after the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

One of Washington's first responsibilities was to create a naval



force that could challenge the British superiority on the seas. For this purpose, he selected an Irish born patriot, John Barry, who was issued commission number one in the newly formed Continental Navy. Barry was given the rank of Commodore. He was born on Our Lady's Isle in County Wexford on Good Friday, April 16, 1745. By 1760, he had settled in Philadelphia where he eventually became a successful merchant captain. An ardent advocate of the new nation, he was given the job of outfitting the

ship Black Prince, renamed "Alfred" in November 1775. This ship became the first flagship of the Continental Navy.

In March of 1776 he was put in command of the brig Lexington. By April, he managed to capture the British tender, Edward and returned with his prize to Philadelphia. It was the first capture of an enemy vessel made by the Continental Navy. He was assigned to a ship under construction in Philadelphia. When work on the ship could not be completed, he took his crew, converted them to infantrymen and joined Washington's army in the famous crossing of the Delaware. He and his men participated in the important battles of Trenton and Princeton. His career as the premier naval officer in the new nation's navy continued when, in early 1778, he led an expedition of four ships that captured three enemy vessels and destroyed supplies intended for the British army.

Perhaps his greatest battle was off the coast of Newfoundland in May of 1781 when he took on two British ships, the HMS Atlanta and HMS Trespassy. After a fierce battle in which Barry was seriously wounded, the British finally struck their colors and surrendered. Later, after the Revolutionary War ended, Barry commanded a force in the Caribbean which fought against French privateers. Barry retired from the sea and died peacefully in Philadelphia in 1803 at age 58. Four U.S. Naval vessels have been named for him, the most recent a destroyer which was commissioned in 1992. Another is a floating museum in the Washington Navy Yard. Many consider Barry to be the father of the American Navy

Much of this material was supplied by the custodian of the library of the U.S. Naval Academy, James Cheevers. Other material was provided by one of Annapolis Maryland's most proud Irish born citizens, Fintan Galway. Fintan, born in Kilkenny, is the proprietor of Annapolis' Galway Bay, one of the truly authentic Irish dining establishments in the State of Maryland. Fintan has been in the U.S. for 20 years and has operated Galway Bay for the past seven of them with his brother, Michael and with Dubliner, Anthony Clarke. Fintan has developed an Irish menu along with his philosophy that states his concept "is a restaurant with a pub not a bar that serves food." Menu specialties include Wexford potato cakes, Killybegs seafood platter or pheasant, venison and rabbit stewed in Guinness, and the list goes on. Fintan's actively involved with the Irish Cultural Society and noted that the local chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is named for John Barry.

In addition, there's another significant Irish presence in Annapolis, the O'Callaghan Hotel. This new, upscale facility is the only American location of the Irish chain of O'Callaghan hotels. Their restaurant, also named for John Barry, serves foods from an outstanding continental menu. There's no doubt that Irish is an important part of Annapolis and certainly a part of American naval tradition. But there's a great deal more to Annapolis than good Irish fare and tradition. Hearing the word "Annapolis"

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conjures up an image of a group of precision marching, sharply uniformed midshipmen moving from class to class at the United States Naval Academy. To others, the name of Annapolis refers to important chapters in the history of the American Revolution against the British crown. It was in this small Maryland port town that our first national capital was situated.

And it was in a tiny assembly room of the State Capitol that George Washington resigned his commission as the nation's first Commander In Chief of the Continental Army. Here, too, in January of 1784, just a few weeks after Washington's resignation, the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War was ratified by the Continental Congress. Annapolis was home to four signers of the Declaration of Independence including Charles Carroll, the only Roman Catholic signer, who encouraged religious diversity in the new nation.

The naval background of the city of 35,000, along with the important contribution it made to the development of our national institutions, make Annapolis a place well worth visiting. Annapolis' city plan features two traffic circles. In the center of one, only a half block from the Tourist Information Center, lies St. Anne's Church. Still holding a regular schedule of services, St. Anne's was attended by Francis Scott Key between 1789 and 1800 in the years he was a young lawyer and before he composed the lyrics to the national anthem. Three of the four signers of the Declaration also worshipped in this church.

At the other traffic circle you'll find the Maryland State House, the nation's oldest continuously functioning building holding a legislative body. Tours of the Naval Academy are a must. Academy tours emphasize the extent to which sports play a part in the curriculum of the school. Certainly the Academy is about learning engineering, math, science and other technical aspects of becoming a naval officer, but its primary purpose is to instill a feeling of teamwork and tradition in the 1,250 plebes who are admitted to the Academy each year.

Chesapeake Bay is the reason for Annapolis' earliest history. The County's more than 500 miles of shoreline offered sailing vessels a safe harbor and commerce developed as a result. In Annapolis' harbor, you can experience a sailing trip through Chesapeake Bay aboard the schooner Woodwind or a sightseeing excursion through the mouth of the Severn River on the Harbor Queen. When you're out on a sail, you might even encounter Captain Billy Baye whose costume and beard add another dimension to a visit. When asked, Billy will regale you with stories about visits to Annapolis from pirate Calico Jack Rackhorn or one he calls "a pirate of exquisite mind," William Vampier.

Annapolis' main industry is fishing. Maryland crab cakes and other specialties are available in most restaurants. In the 18th Century, taverns served

multiple functions. They were meeting places where news was exchanged, points of contact between shippers of merchandise and shipmasters who would carry goods to distant ports. One of the local institutions, Reynold's Tavern on Church Circle, was founded in 1747. On Market Square, at the harbor entrance is the inn that has catered to seafarers since 1754. It's called Middleton Tavern and it is still serving lunches and dinners.

The City Dock has been the heart of Annapolis since 1695. Now the center of recreational boating, it was once the point at which slaves, imported from Africa, were auctioned. Tobacco exports made up the bulk of merchandise being shipped from the Colony to England while manufactured goods were delivered to Colonists after being off-loaded from arriving ships.

Mansions owned by a couple of signers of the Declaration of Independence can be toured. The 1763 William Paca House or the 1774 Hammond-Harwood House are fully furnished with authentic period pieces. The Paca garden is worth a visit for a view of its formal English landscape. The beautifully preserved furniture makes the house seem like someone will be returning from the Capitol after the legislative session concludes, and will expect dinner on the table.



Our stay in Annapolis was a delight in good part due to the hospitality of Robert Dunn whose Inn at 30 Maryland is in the heart of the historic district. Dunn began his career as a chef. He was lucky to find a location within two blocks of an Academy entrance, St. John's College and the State House. He's done much to upgrade the property and still uses his culinary skills to prepare outstanding breakfasts for his guests. There are some 30 bed and breakfast establishments in Annapolis as well as conventional hotels.

There's no doubt that the business of Annapolis, the military necessity of the U.S. Naval Academy and the operation of the State government of Maryland are priority interests. But the hospitality shown during our visit there made us very much at home. Annapolis, especially with its Irish background, offers a chance to visit a community where there's a feeling of history, a sense of patriotic responsibility and a connection to our colonial past.

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For The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



READERS ARE INVITED, as always, to send in corrections of fact. This column reports what the rest of the news media cover up or twist - the facts we need to be effective citizens.

GREAT NEWS! The era of U.S. torture is coming to an end. This column in November reported that the US Senate had just passed McCain's anti-torture bill by 90 to 9 but that Bush had threatened to veto it. Now (December 15th) the US House has finally summoned its integrity. It has voted YEA by a veto-proof 308 to 122 to restore the US's traditional prohibition against torture. The Bush & Co torture days are ending.

WHO VOTED HOW? All but one of the 122 NAY voters were Republican. The lone pro-torture Democrat was Cong. Jim Marshall of Georgia. But here's a shocker: Among the ethically-challenged three abstainees was West Suburban "pro-life" Cong. Henry Hyde!

FREEDOM'S BEACON, upheld by the US since 1776 until dumped by Bush & Co, is now upheld by foreigners. For example, in an explicit rejection of US torture, the German government refuses to prosecute in cases where evidence was extracted by Americans. Now Britain, Europe's

most-convicted torture State during the 1970s and 80s (its victims were all Irish republicans), has followed Germany's lead and will not accept evidence extracted by Americans.

U.S. PATRIOTS suffer to see our nation so debased. Foreign pols now openly call our nation's representative, Condoleezza Rice, a liar, after she publicly stated that the US does not torture. (Someone ought to introduce her to Bush and Cheney both of whom arm-twisted congressmen to get them to vote against McCain's anti-torture amendment). **CIA PLANES** ferrying detainees to secret torture locations have landed in Shannon and Baldonnell in Ireland and in airports throughout Europe. Germany and other European nations are now beginning to investigate. Two such torture locations have been identified as old USSR facilities in Poland and Romania. Now we learn that the CIA, tipped off about the impending investigations, emptied their facilities in Poland and Romania and transferred the torturers to similarly secret facilities in Morocco outside the purview of European investigators.

AND IRELAND? Ireland's Dáil (Congress), with its keen sense of wind direction, is beginning to oppose torture. (It and Ireland's news

media were largely complicit in British torture of Irish patriots.) The following exchange occurred in the Dail on Dec. 6th:

Mr. O'Toole: *I know that my colleague Senator Norris, will say something about aeroplane landings but Dr. Condoleezza Rice reportedly said in Germany that European governments using intelligence obtained by the CIA or other American authorities should not question how it was obtained. This is an appalling reflection on the West. Is it any wonder that we are in trouble with the rest of the world?*

We must get an answer from the American authorities at some stage about what Dr. Rice's statement means. Is it that the ends justify the means; matters that many people have questioned over the past one or two years? People diligently stood up on principle and were for or against the war or American involvement. They spoke honestly, openly and articulately. They must feel the they are being let down time and time again. That Dr. Rice could state this brings a new end to the issue. It is a philosophy without ethics and is impossible for us to be a part of. If western civilization does not distance itself from it, we will all pay a serious price in the short term. Other will have more to say on this matter.

Mr. Tuffy: *I support Senator O'Toole on the need for us to question the United States on its foreign policy. By us not doing that sufficiently, we are endangering our sovereignty. For example, if Shannon Airport is being used to land CIA planes which are being used for bringing detainees to other countries for torture or ill-treatment, as has been alleged by Amnesty International, or if there are secret flights landing at Shannon being used for who knows what by the US Government, it could be unconstitutional and would have a detrimental affect on our sovereignty. We need to act on that now. I ask the Leader to ensure a debate on the issue as soon as possible.*

Mr. Minihan: *I, also, wish to comment briefly on the use of Shannon Airport. I have spoken a number of times in the House on the situation in Iraq and my views would be known. I commented on the EU's initiative last week in this regard. It is disturbing that when we cut out all the semantics we are apparently down to a definition of torture. The admission that the planes are being used to move prisoners is one issue, but where we seem to differ is on what is and what is not torture. Given the admission, the statements made in this House by previous speakers put a considerable onus on the Government to ask serious question and I would welcome if those questions were asked.*

Mr. Norris: *Good.*

Mr. Finucane: *In recent times there has been extreme concern on the basis of the statement by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, that these planes going through Shannon were not being used for torture. Ms. Rice probably coined a new expression in the English language on the use of the word "rendition". I always thought the word "rendition" was a reference to when one asked someone to sing at closing time in a public house.*

Ms O'Rourke: *Yes, a rendition of a song.*

Mr. Norris: *They will sing when Condoleezza Rice gets her hands on them.*

Mr. Finucane: *However, the concern is that these same Americans who previously made statements about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq proved to be wrong. They have also made recent statements in respect of phosphorus bombs and were proven wrong. Why should we believe Condoleezza Rice?*

It is not satisfactory for the Government to state that it has asked a specific question and has received a response. There are concerns. It is not sufficient to suggest, as would the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that if people have proof they should give it to the government. It is now imperative that the Government carry out investigations to try to find out what is going on. All Members are aware that there is much concern at present as to what is happening.

Dr. Mansergh: *As far as Shannon is concerned, the Minister for Foreign Affairs asked questions of the Secretary of State and I understand that he was given an unequivocal answer. While I would hesitate to describe her as a liar -----*

Mr. Norris: *I would not hesitate.*

An Cathaoirleach (Chairman): *We are entering dangerous waters.*

Dr. Mansergh: *---there is no disguising the fact that throughout Europe, everyone is deeply unhappy about some of the practices being used on the war on terror and would like to see the norms of international law fully respected.*

Mr. Norris: *This House led the way in alerting the public to what is happening regarding extraordinary rendition. (A falsehood. For the past two years brave spotters/recorders of those CIA planes have faced arrest and violence at the hands of the Irish gov't. The rest of Sen. Norris' speech was a claim of political credit for opposing US torture, while inadvertently revealing that he and his colleagues began to oppose it only after Germany and other nations made it safe to do so. CF).*

JUDICIAL CORRUPTION in

Ireland is exemplified by its Criminal Appeals Court. Its 44-page verdict rejecting Irish POW Michael McKevitt's appeal fails to rise to the ethical level of mere stupidity. One can only speculate as to how the verdict became infested by MI5 propaganda. It is a long mash note to life-long US criminal and four-time fraudulent bankrupt David Rupert whom FBI agent "Ed" Buckley criminally employed against Irish-Chicago in the mid-'90s. Rupert and Buckley then went to Ireland where they worked for their MI5 handlers. According to Irish news reports, Rupert acted as scout in a car bombing rehearsal just prior to that of Omagh in which twenty-nine innocents died, upon which MI5 urgently recalled him to England. MI5/FBI crimes in Ireland exactly duplicated their earlier ones against us in Winnetka and Chicago. The only difference is that they succeeded, so far, in framing republicans for Omagh but failed in their identical attempt to frame the IRA (and me) for the Winnetka massacre and other, imaginary, crimes. The key difference is that Chicago federal courts are less corrupt than Irish ones.

THE FUNDAMENTAL LIE is the false attribution of British terrorist murders to Irish forces. The false attribution of violence to the Irish underpins the Irish gov't's acquiescence to Britain's policy of murder in Ireland. There is no excuse for it: the record is readily available. For example, see terrorismireland.org.

THE EUROPEAN COURT for Human Rights will probably be the next step in getting justice for Michael McKevitt (after a pro forma appeal to Ireland's equally corrupt Supreme Court). May it be done soon for Michael and his wife Bernadette (nee Sands, sister of Bobby), their family, and decent people everywhere.

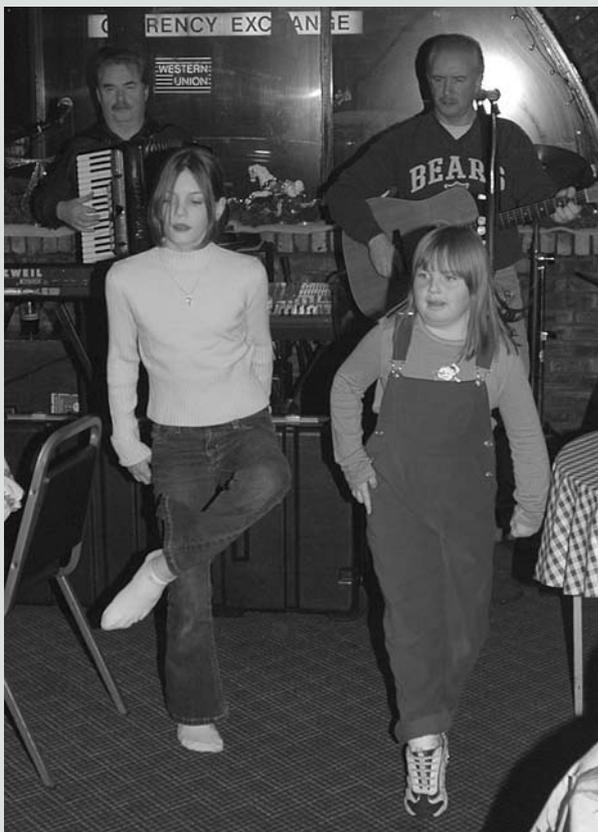
FRANCIE BROLLY FREE! Brit forces arrested the Occupied Irish author/composer/singer recently on false charges but released him later. His haunting Blanketmen song makes him a Brit target. Its chorus goes: So I'll wear no convict's uniform, Nor meekly serve my time,

That Britain might brand Ireland's fight 800 years of crime.

A political prisoner famously said at the time, "The only way they'll keep a criminal's uniform on me is to nail it to my back." All of that was before the sell-out by Adams & Co.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS re Occupied Ireland? See www.terrorismireland.org.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See www.irishholocaust.org. Reach me at 312 664 7651 or fogarty@ix.netcom.com



Grace O'Driscoll and Katie Doyle entertain the guests at The Baked Tomato Restaurant on North Elston Ave. at a recent fundraiser.

Investment Ideas

By Art Noonan

Be Prepared for Long-term Care

Financially speaking, planning for your future entails a certain degree of foresight. It's hard to sit down right now and accurately predict exactly where you'll be in ten years, twenty years, or even further down the road. And while looking ahead to the joys of travel and relaxation and other benefits that we typically associate with retirement, it's easy to overlook unexpected events that may occur during that time – or even sooner.

When you think about building your nest egg, you probably have goals in mind for what you want to accumulate, and you may even have ideas on how you will spend that money. But long-term care is probably one of the last things that comes to mind. Unfortunately, more than a few of us will likely be affected in one way or another by a serious illness or injury that will require some form of long-term care. The prospect of depleting your hard-earned retirement funds to pay for such care is frightening. However, if you take the time now to plan ahead,



you can be financially prepared should you ever find yourself facing this type of situation.

Long-term care refers to the assistance you may need as a result of a disability or a prolonged illness. It usually encompasses a broad range of supportive medical, personal and social services designed to help people who simply can't meet their basic needs to live independently for an extended period of time. This type of assistance can be given either in the home, or at a long-term care facility.

Funding for long-term care can be expensive, depending on the length of time and the specifics of the type of care required. For these reasons, you should be careful to assess a variety of possibilities, and develop a plan that could cover different situations. Here are three basic ways you can fund long-term care.

Self Insurance – If you have assets that can easily be converted to cash, you can plan for long-term care by setting aside a special fund just for that purpose. Investments such as an IRA or an annuity provide a means for

money to accumulate until an illness occurs. The main advantage of insuring yourself this way is that the money will be available for other purposes if you never need it for long-term care. On the other hand, the main setback of setting aside your own funds is the possibility of falling short in your savings, causing you to dip into other funds to pay for long-term care. Also keep in mind, taking large distributions from an IRA could affect your income taxes. If you take it upon yourself to establish the funds, make sure you plan carefully so you will have enough if you need it.

Medicare, Medicaid and Health Insurance – Many people believe they can count on their current health insurance or Medicare or Medicaid to pay for long-term care expenses. Unfortunately, most health insurance policies do not cover the costs associated with long-term care. While Medicare offers medical benefits to eligible seniors, its long-term care benefits are very limited. Medicaid, designed for individuals who do not have the income or assets to pay for long-term care, requires that you first deplete most of your assets (with limited exemptions) before you can qualify. Relying on any of these three options could put you in a bad position if you eventually require long-term care.

Long-Term Care Insurance – While providing tax-free benefits, long-term care insurance offers specific protec-

tion against the high costs of extended health care. For a simple monthly premium, you get a policy that pays a fixed dollar amount for care you can receive

in a variety of settings, including your own home. This specialized insurance can help you avoid spending your assets, and may even allow you



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Cedarburg Wisconsin Irish Set Dancing Classes Continue in 2006

Sets in the 'Burg instructors Joanna Dupuis and Tim McAndrew will feature the Sliabh Luachra set during an eight week Winter 2006 class on Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Jan. 10th through Feb. 28th. This course will be tailored to beginners and intermediates. No partner is required and the course fee is \$45 for 8 classes. Classes will be held at The Irish Pub in Cedarburg (just north of the Cedarburg Cultural Center on Washington Avenue.)

Registration information and photos of recent events available on the website at <http://sets.sulliasociates.com>

The Sliabh Luachra is a region in Ireland, located around the River Blackwater, on the Cork/Kerry Borderland. This region has a unique musical style, which makes heavy use of the polka and the slide. Most of the polkas and slides in Irish traditional music derive from this region.

Contact Teri Sullivan, terilsullivan@yahoo.com 262.302.7854

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By Mike Morley



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DE-MOCK-RACY

Last month we speculated what sort of "January surprise" might be coming out of Northern Ireland this year. Perhaps it arrived a bit early. In 2002 the power-sharing North-South executive was dissolved after three men were arrested for being part of a "spy ring" in the Stormont government. One of the three was Denis Donaldson, head of Sinn Fein administration at Stormont. Donaldson and Sinn Fein had called the raid a "scam" by Special Branch police to scuttle Sinn Fein's chances of taking part in government. But Donaldson has now admitted he was indeed a spy, and for twenty years... but a spy for the British! That confirms rumors that have been circulating for quite some time that Britain had a mole high up in Sinn Fein.

Is anyone shocked that Britain was playing all sides of the bridge table, making sure the queen avoided being trumped? Apparently no one over there is too surprised. Irish Taniste Mary Harney described the news as "incredible"; but ruled out a public inquiry. Britain's Secretary for Northern Ireland, Peter Hain, also rejected an inquiry. Taoiseach Dermot Ahern: "These events are fortunately the vestige of the past". Gerry Adams: "We are not going to be deflected by anything..." Martin McGuinness "Time will pass. People will see all of this in a proper perspective." Paisley simply wants "more information" from Blair. Seems just about everyone is politely ignoring the man behind the curtain.

Speaking about Prof. Marvel, the Frank Morgan character in Oz... I was sitting at the computer the other night (12/7) while my son tuned the TV to "South Park". The episode was titled "Bloody Mary", and started off with cartoon character Stan embarrassed by his father's arrest for drunk driving. I was half-listening to it, but was completely distracted from the computer when the story turned to a bleeding statue of the Virgin Mary. I told Colin (22): "Don't let your mother know you're watching this crap". Not to worry. As I went up to bed and said goodnight, she didn't reply. She doesn't miss much.

In a story 4 days later the AP reported, in part: 'The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights is condemning an episode of "South Park" that it said "defiled" the Virgin Mary. The cartoon, which runs on Comedy Central, features an episode this week titled "Bloody Mary," in which a South Park character claims to have been sprayed with blood from a body orifice of a Virgin Mary statue. When Pope Benedict investigates, he declares that she's just having her period.'

Well, that's putting it very mildly. And if you get too upset by this sort of thing, please- do NOT read on.

What the episode actually said: (you can stream the video from South Park's website if you care to)-

A TV news character announces "The statue of the Virgin Mary has started to bleed out it's a--". This was repeated several times, with the emphasis on "a--", apparently to milk (or bleed) the comic reaction.

Stan's dad decides to cure his alcoholism by visiting the statue. Sick and lame (like the show's jokes) people are lined up to be cured. A priest anoints an old woman in a wheelchair with blood from the back of the statue. When Stan's dad is wheeled behind the statue, there is a dramatic pause before the statue erupts, spraying him in the face with blood, accompanied by a loud farting sound. He cries "I'm cured. Praise Jesus and Mary the Blessed Virgin Mother. Thank You, God. Praise Christ!"

Later there is a news flash. "Pope Benedict the 16th himself visited the statue here in Bailey to witness the miracle first hand." As the "news footage" of the visit plays, the narrator continues: "It was an amazing sight to behold as Pope Benedict himself made his way through the throngs of people. The Pope then examined the statue closely." We are shown a series of close-up shots of the Pope inching his face ever closer to the statue, until he gets a very prolonged and loud blast of blood in the face.

Announcer: "After witnessing the phenomenon first hand, the Pope then cleaned himself off and declared the bleeding Virgin Mary was NOT a miracle. Having investigated closely, the Pope determined the blood was not coming from the Blessed Virgin's a--, but from her vagina. And the Pope said, quote: 'A chick bleeding out of her vagina is no miracle. Chicks bleed out of their vaginas all the time'"

The wonderful moral of this South Park "comedy", the supposed mitigating and socially redeeming excuse for such an outrageous anti-Catholic episode, is the epilogue, the "lesson" that people do not need religion or miracles or "higher powers" in order to cure themselves of bad habits. They possess the power to do so on their own.

The Catholic League is urging the board of Viacom, which owns Comedy Central, to apologize to Catholics. To add to the insult, the episode was scheduled on the eve of the Immaculate Conception.

It's not the first time South Park has angered

Catholics, or at least the League. In July 2002 the show reportedly "maligned all priests as pedophiles". And when the segment was repeated a month later Comedy Central touted the segment on its home page, calling it, "The episode the Catholic League denounced. What other reason do you need to watch it?"

What is Viacom? According to their website: "Viacom is a leading global media company, with preeminent positions in broadcast and cable television, radio, outdoor advertising, and online. With programming that appeals to audiences in every demographic category across virtually all media, the company is a leader in the creation, promotion, and distribution of entertainment, news, sports, music, and comedy. Viacom's well-known brands include CBS, MTV, Nickelodeon, Nick at Nite, VH1, BET, Paramount Pictures, Infinity Broadcasting, Viacom Outdoor, UPN, TV Land, Comedy Central, CMT: Country Music Television, King World, Spike TV, Showtime, and Simon & Schuster." Viacom is a goliath, with sales of \$23.7 billion.

CBS: "...the No. 1 most-watched network with more than 200 affiliated stations." During the '04 Super Bowl, CBS redefined "the boob tube" with the help of Janet Jackson.

MTV: "...the world's largest television network and the leading multimedia brand for youth...reaching nearly 379 million households in 140 territories globally". The Parents Television Council, a group monitoring children's programming, takes the network and its advertisers to task saying, "MTV is watched by 73% of boys and 78% of girls ages 12 to 19, and it is profoundly influential in the lives of its young fans by glamorizing drug and alcohol use, sexual promiscuity and violent behavior."

Infinity Broadcasting: "owns and operates 180 radio stations, is one of the largest operators of radio stations in the United States. Approximately 91 percent of its radio stations are located in the 50 largest U.S. radio markets." In 2002 the "Opie and Anthony" show was kicked off the airwaves in New York and 16 other markets when those two "personalities" had a show member describe via cell phone a couple having sex in St. Patrick's Cathedral during Mass. It was August 15, the feast of the Assumption.

The "stunt" reportedly was for the annual "Sex for Sam" contest, sponsored by Samuel Adams Beer. Participants got points for having sex in public places. St. Patrick's merited 25 points, Central Park only 10. Different sex acts were also assigned point values.

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Winners got a trip to Boston events sponsored by Samuel Adams. Jim Koch, Samuel Adams' chairman was in the studio, acting as "Grand Marshal" for the event. It gets worse. We'll spare you.

Opie and Anthony were off the air for two years. But they didn't lose a dime. They collected paychecks until their contract with Infinity ran out, and have now moved to XM satellite radio, where there are no odious FCC rules to gag their wisdom.

"Showtime Networks Inc. (SNI) owns the premium television networks Showtime, The Movie Channel and FLIX. SNI owns a 30 percent interest in Sundance Channel, which is a venture among NBC Universal, Robert Redford and SNI."

Penn Jillette, of Penn & Teller- Penn's the big one, with the big mouth. Last May in a Showtime Penn and Teller episode titled "Holier than Thou" he mocked Mother Teresa, saying the poor "had to suffer so that Mother f---ing Teresa could be enlightened". He called her nuns f---ing c---s. (No, he didn't say Catholics, or even cows. And FYI: on NPR's Morning Edition, November 21, he declared: "I believe that there is no God. I'm beyond atheism.")

We'll go into this subject some more in a later column. And I hope to open the curtain to introduce you to the Professor Wizards of show biz. For now I'd like to pose the question, "Why Catholics? Are Catholics more wimpy than other folks? Are they conditioned to feel guilty when blameless? Do they simply ignore the mockery, believing they "blend"? Where is the outrage?"

Prof. Arthur Schlesinger, Sr. (Harvard) once noted that anti-Catholicism is "the deepest bias in the history of the American people". Prof. Peter Viereck (Yale): "Catholic baiting is the anti-Semitism of the liberals."

In this country, blatant mockery of religion is supposed to be against the law. Why is Catholicism the exception? It is said members of the KKK described the initials as standing for the three targets of their hatred: Koons, Kikes and Catholics. Why are the latter still fair game?

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Mike Morley 2006

Sinn Fein rejects OTR legislation

Sinn Fein has rejected new legislation which is supposed to give so-called "on-the-run" republicans an amnesty. The plans cover up to 150 people wanted for crimes committed before 1998. They would have their cases heard by a special tribunal and, if found guilty, would be freed on license without having to go to jail. The scheme will be temporary but a precise cut-off period is not specified in the bill - instead its expiry is linked to the lifetime of the chief constable's historic cases review team, which is looking at unsolved murders during the Troubles.

The proposed law would set up a two-stage process. First someone who will be known as the certification officer will decide if someone is eligible for the scheme. The case would then go to a special tribunal, consisting of a retired judge sitting without a jury. The tribunal would have all the normal powers of the Crown Court but accused would not have to appear for their trial. If found guilty, they would get a criminal record but would be freed on license. They would have to provide fingerprints and DNA samples to be granted their license.

Party vice-president Pat Doherty said the legislation was "far removed" from what had been agreed during 2001 talks with the British government at Weston Park. He also accused the government of "sleight of hand. But the British government said there was no other vehicle for dealing with OTRs. A Northern Ireland Office spokesman said Sinn Fein were "deluding themselves", if they thought that there was.

Sinn Fein initially welcomed it, but now realize it will not only give an amnesty to IRA members but also to any soldiers or police officers who committed murder during 30 years of violence. Mr. Doherty led a delegation of party members and victims' groups to meet Mr. Hain to give their views on the Northern Ireland (Offences) Bill which is currently going through Parliament, urging the government to scrap the legislation and "stick to what was agreed".

TG4 is looking for your old movies of Ireland

TG4, the Irish language TV station based in Galway, is very interested in uncovering old moving picture footage of Belfast, Dublin and

any other part of Ireland which has not been previously broadcast as well as footage of Irish Communities abroad.

Amateur footage is of particular interest - the older the better. Were you a keen amateur film-maker or know of any film that is waiting for its chance on the small-screen? Were you posted in the north of Ireland during WW2 and took a movie camera with you? Do you have footage of holidays in Ireland or are you of Irish heritage and have footage of family celebrations, reunions or GAA games or maybe St. Patrick's Day Parades in The USA, UK, Canada or Ireland?

Footage will be used as part of a major archive history series and the producers would especially like to hear from those whose footage show aspects of rural and city life in Ireland - transport; working life; sport; conflict; music etc. If you think you could help, contact Deirdre or Martin at Stirling Productions on 00442890 333848, or email deirdreellis@gmail.com or research@stirlingtelevision.co.uk



Clair and Sean Callan at the opening of the Irish American Heritage Center Library.

Trinity Orthopaedics

Trinity Orthopaedics, S.C. is pleased to announce that Daniel G. Torres, M.D. has joined us in the practice of Musculoskeletal Care effective December 1st, 2005, specializing in Rheumatology and Arthritis. Dr. Torres joins us from West Suburban Ambulatory Care, where he practiced for 10 years. He is Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Loyola University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Montefiore/University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He received his fellowship training at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Dr. Torres has special interests in the treatment of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthropathies. He is bilingual and fluent in Spanish. To schedule a consultation with Dr. Torres, please call (708) 848-4662

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Events in Milwaukee

Taoiseach's Daughter Crosses the Water

Celia Ahern - Author of *If You Could See Me Now*
Friday, January 20 • 7pm reading • Schwartz' Bookstore Shorewood, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 963-3111

Cecelia Ahern is the 23-year-old daughter of Ireland's Taoiseach (prime minister), Bertie Ahern. Her first two novels, *PS, I Love You* and *Rosie Dunne*, were critically acclaimed international bestsellers. She lives in Dublin, Ireland. In *If You Could See Me Now*, Ahern introduces us to two sisters at odds with each other. Elizabeth's life is an organized mess. The organized part is entirely due to her own efforts. The mess is entirely due to her sister, Saoirse, whose personal problems leave Elizabeth scrambling to pick up the pieces. One of these pieces is Saoirse's six-year-old son, Luke. Luke is quiet and contemplative, until the arrival of a new friend, Ivan, turns him into an outgoing, lively kid. And Elizabeth's life is about to change in wonderful ways she has only dreamed of. With all the warmth and wit that fans have come to expect from Cecilia Ahern, this is a novel full of magic, heart, and surprising romance.

If You Could See Me Now was snapped up by Disney Pictures even before it was published and is slated to star Hugh Jackman in a multi million dollar production. The film version of Ahern's earlier novel, *PS, I Love You*, is currently under production with Warner Brothers. This amazing success of a talented young Irishwoman

is just part of the current overflowing gift basket that young Irish writers and film makers offer the world. Her visit to Milwaukee is sponsored by Schwartz' Bookstores in cooperation with UWM's Center for Celtic Studies. Cecilia's reading at 7PM on Friday January 20th will be introduced by noted Irish poet and Celtic Studies faculty member James Liddy. For more information, call the bookstore at 414-963-3111.

**Niall Hartnett Photography Exhibit:
Opens February 3, 2006 at the Irish Cultural Center**

Niall Hartnett, 34, is an Irish-born photographer and writer who lives in Monticello, Indiana. He is the son of acclaimed poet, Michael Hartnett. His forthcoming book, *Notes from His Contemporaries*, will be published in the summer of 2006. The book serves as a tribute to his father and includes memoirs, anecdotes, poems and interviews with his father's contemporaries including Seamus Heaney, Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, and our own James Liddy. For his book, Niall photographed a plethora of poets. In fact, most noted Irish poets of the last 30 years are included. Using a combination of high digital and old tech medium format film, Hartnett has produced a unique record of the Irish literary world. These photos form the exhibition at the Irish Cultural Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI. There will be an opening reception with Niall Hartnett at 7pm on Friday February 3, 2006.

St. David's Day Event March 1st

This year we will be celebrating St. David's Day, the Welsh National Holiday, with a special event at the Hefter Center. There will be a reception with Welsh delicacies at 6:30pm followed by a presentation by Henry Jones Davis, editor of *Cambria* magazine, Grand Marshall of the St. David's Day parade in the Welsh capital Cardiff and noted Welsh scholar and historian. This will be followed by

a short concert of Welsh folk songs by Welsh tenor Geraint Wilkes. For more information call the Center for Celtic Studies at (414) 299-6520.

Sean Nós Weekend 2006: Friday, February 24th and Saturday, February 25th

Friday - This exciting event starts off with a concert on Friday evening featuring Máirín Uí Chéide, Aine Meenaghan, Liam Ó Maonlaí (The Hothouse Flowers), Virginia Stevens Blankenhorn and Julie Henigan, Jimmy Crowley, Brian Hart, Moira Smiley among others (Concert starts at 7.30p.m.). Song Workshops follow early morning coffee and scones on Saturday morning (9.00-10.15a.m. and 10.45a.m.-12.00p.m.). Then participants and performers have a chance to munch and mingle over lunch.

Saturday - On Saturday afternoon, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Douglas

Hyde's visit to Milwaukee (Douglas Hyde was the first president of Ireland and a founder of Conradh na Gaeilge), the Center for Celtic Studies at UWM will be unveiling a plaque in "The Cudahy Bar" in the Pabst Theater. Hyde came to Milwaukee to successfully raise funds for Irish language activities back in Ireland. His collection of the Irish language love songs and religious songs of Connaught made a vital and lasting contribution to the Gaelic revival. At this event, one or two of those songs will be sung. Professor Seosamh Watson, Emeritus Chair of Celtic Studies at the National University of Ireland and Gaelic activist, will give the first "Hyde Memorial Lecture" (2.00p.m.). This special event will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. A singing session will start at 7.30p.m. at "The County Clare" pub. Be ready to share a song or two!

Registration

A special weekend rate of \$35 will cover admission to the concert, Saturday morning workshops with boxed lunch, the Pabst reception, and evening song session. Admission to concert on Friday night is \$10. Advanced registration is required. Please make checks payable to the Center for Celtic Studies. The address is Center for Celtic Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Holton Hall 290, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53212. (414) 229-6520 or www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic.

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SHARING A PINT

By Scott Powers

There was a time during Niall Hartnett's boyhood that he was only known as "the poet's son." Most people, including his classmates, never looked beyond his name and relation to Michael Hartnett, the famous Irish poet. No matter how hard he tried or what he did, Niall could not escape the title. Along with the normal teenage indignation, Niall also dealt with knowing that, while others considered his father to be a brilliant poet, he knew him as someone with a drinking problem and an imperfect family life. Before Michael passed away in 1999 from liver troubles due to his drinking, Niall learned to love his father for who he was. He took the good with the bad and even accepted he was the poet's son.

Now 34, Niall is in the midst of balancing being that son, which includes helping keep his father's memory alive, and creating his own identity as a photographer. Niall recently sat down at Poor Phil's in Oak Park to talk of his father and himself while Sharing a Pint.

The name Michael Hartnett doesn't hold as much weight with Americans as it does the Irish. Michael began to emerge on Ireland's poetry scene in the late 1960s with "Anatomy of a Cliché," a book of love poetry. He later cemented himself in Irish history when, in 1975, he made the controversial decision to no longer publish in English. His Gaelic-written book, "Farewell to English," earned him the Irish-American Cultural Institute Award and the Irish Arts Council Award for best book in Irish. His writing career continued to flourish over the next few decades.

During that time, however, it became more difficult for him to resist the bottle. He often hitchhiked five miles from his family's home in the parish of Templeglantine to go to Newcastle West, his hometown in Co. Limerick, to sit and drink with friends. Michael often arrived to functions drunk. Niall would be approached by fans telling him that he must be so proud of his father. He said he was, while hiding his embarrassment. Michael's drinking eventually led to the end of his marriage with Rosemary Hartnett and him leaving Niall and his daughter Lara. Niall doesn't sugarcoat his father's past. Michael often kept to himself and wasn't good at expressing his feelings outside of his writing.

Niall does remember plenty of good times

with his father as well. Michael could be the life of the party and never took crap from anyone. He also could be a caring person who wanted the best for his son. He had hoped Niall would become a scientist and encouraged him to go to college. "My father played more of an intellectual role in my life," Niall said. "He wanted to teach me about the world. He never talked about writing."

Niall dabbled in poetry as a teenager but chose not to follow in his father's footsteps. He later attended Trinity College in Dublin and went on to Indiana University for a master's degree in psychology. He recently moved to the Chicago area and became an academic advisor in the University of Illinois-Chicago's psychology department. About four years ago, Niall began tapping into his creative energy through photography. It was during this time he had also become more active in the remembrance of his father's works by creating a Web site.

With the help of his fiancée, Rachel, Niall later came up with an idea to merge a book of writers remembering his father with photos of his own. The photos would be portraits taken by Niall of the contributing writers. He found a willing publisher along with 40 writers, including Paul Durkin and Seamus Heaney, to submit various contributions of anecdotes, poems and more about his father.

For his part, Niall has traveled across the United States and Ireland taking photos of the writers. Most of the writers were uncomfortable in front of a camera and provided him with a short window in which to take the photos. The Irish American Heritage Center had a photo exhibit of a sampling of his collection in December. All the photos are black and white and were either taken somewhere that the writer was comfortable or somewhere they associated with Michael. Niall looked to catch the personality of the writer with



Scott Powers and Niall Hartnett

each photo and used an old-fashioned camera and a new-aged digital one to demonstrate the generation spectrum of the writers. Niall hopes the book will be out by the summer and isn't sure whether it will be released outside of Ireland.

Niall has considered moving back to Ireland and getting more involved in the literature scene, but he doesn't want his father's work to be his whole life. He does believe his father would be supportive of the book and his photography career. "If he knew I was doing this for him, he would be fine with it," Niall said. "I wouldn't be doing it unless he would. This has not only been great because I get to meet all these writers, most of whom who only knew me as a child, and celebrate my dad, but it's also good to get a book out there. Hopefully it'll help push others along."

Niall would like to do future documentary photography books, but he wants to step away from the Irish and writing cultures. Being in Chicago now, he's already thought of a handful of ideas. The city has also given him something he's been missing for a while. "For a long time, I haven't had much exposure to the Irish community," said Niall, who most recently lived in Monticello, Ind. "I've been missing it because I've been missing Ireland. Chicago definitely intrigued me. I thought I could put together the community with my work. The Chicago Irish community has embraced me."

* For more about Niall Hartnett, samples of his work and information about his father and the yearly Eigse Michael Hartnett Photo Festival, check out www.niallhartnett.com. Have a recommendation for "Sharing a Pint" or want to write Scott Powers? Contact him at sjpowpow@yahoo.com.

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Coming soon: Celtic Irish Cosmos Symposia

What have the Irish contributed to America? That question and more will be answered at The Celtic Irish Cosmos Symposia at the Irish American Heritage Center in the winter of 2006. This 3-part series will take place on the last Sunday of January, February and March 2006.

The Celtic Irish Cosmos will explore several aspects of Irish-American identity. The lectures will examine the past, present and future of Irish Americans and their roles in politics, the arts, business, literature and the media. It will look at how the Irish as a group succeeded or faltered in the past, what can be learned from the present that will influence the future of Irish America.

The backbone of the symposia will be in-depth presentations by well-known Irish-American leaders and trendsetters with an audience feedback session. There will be exhibits tied to the day's topic and each session will feature live Irish music, dance, displays of artwork and authors discussing, selling and signing their work.

The Irish Transformation, on Sunday, January 29th, at 2:30pm, will explore the impact of Hollywood and the media on the image of the Irish. It will ask and answer such questions as "Did Hollywood create the Irish image or did the Irish establish this image specially for Hollywood?" Panelists for Session #1 include Dennis J. McBride, author of *A Spirit Moved Our Feet: What You Should Know About Being Irish-American*, award-winning Chicago actor Brad Armacost, Ellen Skerrett, scholar and co-author of *Catholicism, Chicago Style* and *The Irish in Chicago* and scholar and author Lawrence J. McCaffrey, Professor Emeritus, Loyola University's Department of History.

The Irish Ascendancy; The Wearing of the

Green: An Irish American Success Story, on Sunday February 26th at 3pm will focus on the role of the Irish in creating the successful business and political environment. Facets of Irish involvement in business, politics and public service will be on the agenda. Panelists include former Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan and Illinois State Senator John J. Cullerton.

The Irish Consecution on Sunday March 26th will be a gala event, beginning at 3pm. It will celebrate the present as well as emphasize the future and the impact the Irish will have on growth of this country, while striving to preserve their Irish heritage and pass on to the next generation. A major focus of this session will be Irish culture, including music, storytelling, dance and Celtic art. Panelist will include Northwestern University Professor and writer Bill Savage and Consulate General of Ireland, Charles Sheehan.

Tickets for the Celtic Irish Cosmos can be purchased by calling the Irish American Heritage Center at 773-282-7035, ext. 10. Prices for the events are: IAHC members \$15 per ticket or \$40 per series, non members, \$20 per ticket or \$50 per series or \$80, which includes a membership to the IAHC and tickets to all three events.

The Celtic Irish Cosmos is supported by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council and the Illinois Arts Council.



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The Irish American Cultural Institute Announces New Chairman

The Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) Board of Directors announced that Gerald P. McBride was appointed Chairman of the organization at the organization's board meeting, November 19th, 2005. The statement comes after Chairman and CEO John P. Walsh announced his retirement. Walsh is stepping down after 35 years of association with the IACI, 18 of which he served as Chairman.

Chairman-elect McBride most recently served as Vice Chairman of the IACI and in the past has held various roles for the Irish American Partnership. Kathleen Fee, a member of the Board of Directors, will replace McBride as Vice Chairman.

The IACI is a federally recognized 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit national organization committed to the exploration and appreciation of Irish culture. Founded in 1962, the Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) is the leading Irish American cultural organization with the President of Ireland as its Patron.

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Listen, you can improve your life

Imagine, the first panel of a cartoon showing a medieval castle under siege. The second panel shows a salesman trying to sell a .50 caliber machine gun to one of the knights. The third panel shows the boss telling the knight to send the salesman away, he doesn't have time to see (listen) to some sales person.

The recently deceased Dr. Patrick Scanlon of Loyola University's Medical School continuously told his students that if you listen to your patients, probably as many as 90% will tell you what is wrong with them. Yet we don't see many doctors that actually listen to a recitation of your ills. This same practice is equally widespread in business. Bob McCoy, a former EVP with Dominicks Finer Foods says that 90% or more of bosses don't get solid input from their subordinates.

Why doesn't the boss listen? Is s/he too busy to pay attention? Or is s/he too focused on something else? Are there too many other things going on at the same time? Are they distracted by other pressing matters? Is it possible that they don't want to hear the news they're being told? Could it be that the issue is even more basic? Have we been trained by our parents (or other authority figures) that we can't get their attention unless our conduct is outrageous. Or are we the victims of our own arrogance--we have the answers, all of them.

In a recent Masterpiece Theater performance, the Virgin Queen (Elizabeth) of England says to her key confidant on her ascendancy to the throne, you must tell me the truth even if I am upset with you for doing so. I will try to never hold your message against you, for you are my most important confidant.

In William Manchester's book, Goodbye, Darkness, he describes an incident that happened to him during World War II in the Pacific. Marine Sergeant Manchester and his men were pinned down behind a sea wall, waiting for the Japanese automatic fire to stop. A young officer tells him that they are going over the top to knock out the enemy pill boxes. Manchester tells him that neither he nor his men are going to "go over the top" regardless what this officer says. They are combat veterans and they know better. The officer called

Manchester and his men cowards. He then leads the non-existent charge and is killed within a few feet. Manchester says that he should have listened to the combat veterans and he would probably have lived out the day, but he "knew" better than they. His unwillingness to listen got him killed.

If you are the boss/supervisor/president/ or parent, how can you elicit legitimate input? You need to be PRESENT for the persons in your life, whether at home or the plant or office. If not, someone will ultimately tell you that you weren't there for them. You simply weren't listening. Commonly people hope that you will accept their input, but may not necessarily anticipate that you implement their particular point of view. But they do want to feel that they have had a chance to state their beliefs or conclusions.

I have spent a good part of my professional life dealing with senior executives. Frankly, I cannot recall very many of them admitting that they didn't listen to their subordinates. Most seem to feel that they listen closely to their staff. But when I talk to their staff members privately most of them say the same thing, "they don't listen" Many times the supervisor believes his own "press clippings"; that he has all the answers. The supervisor may make comments like "I don't want to hear about losses." Why? Because it doesn't fit into the person's plans. Their smugness or arrogance won't let them accept the information intelligently.

Wouldn't you think that the boss who is paying good salaries throughout his organization would want to hear their insights or their opinions? But frequently subordinates report that they find that the boss is preoccupied, inattentive, distant or distracted. There is no doubt that you need to be more attentive to your subordinates and the information they are providing you.

Listening to your subordinates clearly pays off. The McDonald Corporation states proudly that a great number of their products have been developed by their franchisees. Many of us know people who own 20-30 patents. They developed products because they understood their processes very well. And their bosses

listened. How about your company? Maybe you should leave a copy of this article on your boss' desk (anonymously, if you please).

The boss needs to make himself available to the employees of the organization, without any barriers. S/he needs to walk the plant floor. S/he needs to be seen as vulnerable. S/he should make it quite clear that an unwelcome comment is as helpful as a welcomed one (defined as being in agreement with the boss' beliefs). The boss has a lot of power over their employees: salary level, job security and career advancement. Think about it, who is going to challenge that unless they believe it is permissible. Many employees are risk adverse; particularly in these volatile times.

Now if you are on the other side of the desk trying to get your boss' attention, you might consider these few thoughts. You need to establish your credibility early and often. You need to reinforce your image as a positive contributor. You want the best for the total corporation. You want to help to make your boss feel secure. You are not trying to undermine anyone. Rather you are striving to help the boss reach higher levels within the organization. You are working in the best interests of the boss. Of course, your ideas may not be accepted the first or second time, but persistence will pay off. Stay the course.

Recognize that many of us confuse our ego with our integrity. You NEVER surrender your integrity, or you are lost. But if you are being honest, the issue might be your ego. Be honest with yourself, which is really at stake? Pick your battles carefully.

Always use a respectful tone when you disagree with the boss. Such deference does not mean that you don't believe in your position 100%, but rather it is to your advantage to always be courteous and well spoken in stating your position.

Work out a logical approach on how you are going to present your data. Have a written agenda for any meeting of more than just a few minutes. Demonstrate that this meeting is important and you are well prepared; this is not a casual hallway conversation. Think carefully about how to frame your comments, so others can readily

accept them. Clearly state how your approach would help the company. If the boss is a big sports fan, maybe the use of sport analogies would facilitate the conversation. Apply the KISS (keep it simple, stupid) principle. I got an email from a friend of mine recently and he said he could make the simplest matter complex. Why would someone want to do that?

So if you are a boss or have a boss or wish to be a boss, you must learn to be sensitive to the communication needs integral to the process of human interaction. Carpe Diem.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc. an Oak Brook based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. Phone number 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net. Jim is also the Chairman of the Board for the Career Transitions Center of Chicago

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Sporting Log

By Sean O'Ceallachain



Money talks and the GAA are now looking forward to one of the biggest financial bonanzas in the history of the Association when they rent out the GAA stadium, Croke Park, to the Irish Rugby Union and the Football Association of Ireland for their soccer internationals in the 2007 / 2008 / 2009 seasons. As I have been stressing in this column for some time now, the decision to open up Croke Park for soccer and rugby while the rugby headquarters, Lansdowne Road, is being rebuilt will prove a major step.

GAA president Sean Kelly, who relinquishes office in March 2006 can take all the credit for masterminding the entire transaction. He saw the wisdom of such a move in spite of a lot of opposition from several quarters within the Association. What does it all mean? The long and short of it is quite simple. The GAA stands to earn 36 million euro in rent money from the IRFU and the FAI during the three seasons that

Lansdowne Road is closed for re-development. and that's on four sell out games, in rugby and soccer per year (it could be more in some seasons in Croke Park.

Negotiations are at present taking place between the three Associations on the rental fees that the GAA are seeking, and naturally the GAA will be driving a very hard bargain. It can be supposed that the GAA will be looking for 1.5 million euro per

game. That would give a return of up to 12 million euro per year for the GAA.

Despite the high rent, the IRFU and the FAI will stand to benefit hugely from a move to the 83,000- capacity Croke Park as the gross yield would be more than twice what Lansdowne Road can realise. Lansdowne Road's total capacity for rugby games is 49,000, but crucially, there are only 24,000 seats, 45,000 fewer than in Croke Park.

Under UEFA and FIFA

regulations, bucket seats have to be installed in Lansdowne Road for European and World Cup soccer qualifier games, restricting the capacity for soccer to 34,000 other than for friendly matches. It can be said, that a sell-out rugby international at Lansdowne Road returns a ticket gross around 2 million euro. However, the same game in Croke Park would yield over 4.5 million euro, while another one million would accrue from the rent of the corporate boxes, plus increased advertising revenue, arising from the larger signage in Croke Park.

Croke Park has 98 corporate boxes on their sale date match against France in February 2007, the gross take will be 5.5 million euro, based on last year's ticket prices. That's over 3 million more than the IRFU would return from Lansdowne Road so even if they have to pay the GAA 1.5 million they would still have 1.5 million more for themselves, than if the game were in Lansdowne. Road. The GAA are in a very strong position as they will be the only stadium show in town once the IRFU and the FAI become temporarily homeless in early 2007.

Live Sports in January from Setanta

Setanta Sports channel is airing an unprecedented number of live international football and rugby matches. The network is available on DIRECTV (Channel 615) as a premium channel and with GlobeCast WorldTV DTH. Check www.setanta.com/usa for updated schedules.

Week Of January 1-7

Rugby - Celtic League (Live)

The Celtic Cup is competed for by the teams who finish in the top eight in the Celtic League. Unlike the Guinness Premiership play-offs, it is a tournament in its own right.

January 6 at 2:00 PM - Newport Gwent Dragons v Connaught

January 7 at 2:30 PM - Edinburgh Gunners v Munster

Week Of January 8 - 14

Football (Soccer)-Carling Cup (Live)

The Carling Cup is the secondary cup competition in England. It is open only to professional Soccer Clubs including the English Premier League. There are 7 knock out rounds in the competition, climaxing with a final at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. The winners of the competition automatically qualify for the U.E.F.A. Cup. Games are played on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The favorites for this year's competition is sure to be current holders Chelsea, with the usual suspects Manchester United, Arsenal and the winningest Carling Cup team (7) Liverpool in hot pursuit, though the real beauty of the competition is that there is always the possibility that one

of the Championship, League One or League Two teams can perform a 'giant killing' and knock out a Premier League opponent. The semi finals are played over two legs and the leader on aggregate advances to the final.

January 10 at 2:30PM - Semi-Finals First Leg - Teams TBD

January 11 at 2:30PM - Semi-Finals First Leg - Teams TBD

Rugby - Celtic League (Live)

January 8 at 10:30 AM - Ulster v Glasgow Warriors

Heineken Cup (Live)

The Heineken Cup started in 1995 as a stepping stone between domestic rugby and the international stage. The Heineken Cup involves club rugby teams from Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, France and Italy. The format is as follows: The six Pool winners and two best placed runners-up will qualify for the Quarter-Finals and will be decided by the following criteria: Four points for a win, two points for a draw (match points). A bonus point will be earned by a team scoring four or more tries and by a team losing by seven or less points. The Pool winner will be the Club with the highest number of match points earned in each Pool. The runners up will be the two second placed Clubs from



DUBLIN, IRELAND - SEPTEMBER 7: Roy Keane of Ireland in action during the World Cup Group 4 Qualifying match between Republic of Ireland and France at Lansdowne Road on September 7, 2005 in Dublin, Ireland. (Photo by Shaun Botterill/Getty Images)

all six Pools with the next highest number of points. For the Quarter-Final round, the Pool winners will be ranked 1 - 6 in terms of the number of points earned. The runners-up will be ranked 7 and 8.

January 13 - TBD (Kick off 14:30 PM)

January 14 - TBD (Kick off 8:00 AM)

January 14 - TBD (Kick off at 10 AM)

January 14 - TBD (Kick off at 12 PM)

WEEK OF JANUARY 15 - 21

Rugby - Heineken Cup (Live)

January 15 - TBD (Kick off at 8:00 AM)

January 15 - TBD (Kick off 10:00AM)

January 20 - TBD (Kick off 2:30 PM)

January 20 - TBD (Kick off at 8:00 AM)

January 21 - TBD (Kick off at 10 AM)

January 21 - TBD (Kick off at 12 PM)

Week Of January 22 - 28

Football (Soccer) - Carling Cup (Live)

January 24 at 2:30PM - Semi-Finals second Leg - Teams TBD

January 25 at 2:30PM - Semi-Finals second Leg - Teams TBD

Rugby - Heineken Cup (Live)

January 22 - TBD (Kick off at 8:00 AM)

January 22 - TBD (Kick off 10:00AM)

Celtic League

January 27 at 9:00 PM (Same Day Coverage) - Cardiff Blues v Edinburgh Gunners

January 28 at 12:30 PM (LIVE) - Munster v Newport Gwent Dragons

Chicago mourns deaths of two great gaeils

Chicago gaeldom mourned the deaths of two well-known gaeils recently, P.J Murphy, from Nountmellick, Co. Laois, and James Hickey, proud native of Coolaclare, Co. dare. Both men were prominent players on Chicago Gaa playing fields in the 60's and 70's, and served their respective clubs, Shannon Rangers hurling and St. Brendan's football, with distinction.

The untimely death of P.J Murphy, who was only 66 years old became more poignant during his wake at Gibbon's Funeral Home, when it was discovered that his son, Brian, who was married, was found dead at his home, after he failed to turn up for his father's wake. The large attendance at P.J's wake and funeral testified to the great popularity of this fine Laois hurler, who had thrilled so many Chicago gaeils

with his hurling art on so many occasions. We join with Chicago gaeldom in offering our deepest sympathy to the Murphy family in Chicago and in Laois. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm. Our sincere condolences also to the family of Brian. May he rest in peace.

The death of James Hickey was also another sad occasion for his legion of Chicago Gaelic friends on and off the playing field. He was a star performer when the mighty St, Brendan's football club ruled the arena in Chicago and the Midwest with household names like Jim Barton, Jimmy Wade, Paddy Scanlon, John and Francie Brennan, Tim Mulvey and others. The late Jim with his brother J.J could hold their own with the best of those days. Whilst his other brothers the late Mike and Paddy watched from

the sidelines and always promoted the games of the gael.

The late Jim and his beloved wife are the proud parents of the internationally well-known U.S Army, Lieut.Col. Jim Hickey, who led the raid on Saddam Hussein's hideaway a few years ago, resulting in the live capture of the infamous Iraq Dictator. Lieut. Co. Hickey and his brave men who made the capture were honored later by Mayor Richard M. Daley and indeed by all Chicagoans, and of course all proud Americans.

Here again we offer our sincere condolences to the Hickey family in Chicago, Naperville and at home in Co. Clare. The large attendance at the wakes in Orland Park and Naperville, testified to the popularity of this fine Gael and well-known and respected businessman. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.



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GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP

Saturday, 7 January	9:30am-LIVE	Worcester Warriors v. Northampton Saints
Saturday, 7 January	7:00pm	Worcester Warriors v. Northampton Saints
Sunday, 8 January	8:30am-LIVE	Saracens v. Gloucester
Sunday, 8 January	2:00pm	Saracens v. Gloucester
Friday, 27 January	2:30pm-LIVE	Bristol v. Worcester Warriors

HEINEKEN CUP

Friday, 13 January	2:30pm-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 14 January	8:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 14 January	10:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 14 January	12:00pm-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 14 January	7:00pm	Teams TBC
Saturday, 14 January	9:00pm	Teams TBC
Saturday, 14 January	11:00pm	Teams TBC
Sunday, 15 January	8:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC
Sunday, 15 January	10:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC
Friday, 20 January	2:30pm-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 21 January	8:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 21 January	10:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 21 January	12:00pm-LIVE	Teams TBC
Saturday, 21 January	7:00pm	Teams TBC
Saturday, 21 January	9:00pm	Teams TBC
Saturday, 21 January	11:00pm	Teams TBC
Sunday, 22 January	8:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC
Sunday, 22 January	10:00am-LIVE	Teams TBC

CELTIC LEAGUE

Friday, 6 January	2:10pm-LIVE	Newport Gwent Dragons v. Connacht
Saturday, 7 December	2:30pm-LIVE	Edinburgh Gunners v. Munster
Saturday, 7 December	7:00pm	Edinburgh Gunners v. Munster
Sunday, 8 January	10:30am-LIVE	Ulster v. Glasgow Warriors
Sunday, 8 January	11:00pm	Ulster v. Glasgow Warriors
Saturday, 28 January	12:30pm-LIVE	Munster v. Newport Gwent Dragons
Saturday, 28 January	9:00pm	Munster v. Newport Gwent Dragons

THE SETANTA SPORTS RUGBY LINE-UP INCLUDES: HEINEKEN CUP, GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP, SIX-NATIONS, SUPER 14's, CELTIC LEAGUE, POWERGEN CUP and more...

CARLING CUP

Tuesday, 10 January	2:45pm-LIVE	1st Semi-Final/1st Leg
Tuesday, 10 January	9:00pm	1st Semi-Final/1st Leg
Wednesday, 11 January	2:45pm-LIVE	2nd Semi-Final/1st Leg
Wednesday, 11 January	9:00pm	2nd Semi-Final/1st Leg
Tuesday, 24 January	2:45pm-LIVE	1st Semi-Final/2nd Leg
Tuesday, 24 January	9:00pm	1st Semi-Final/2nd Leg
Wednesday, 25 January	2:45pm-LIVE	2nd Semi-Final/2nd Leg
Wednesday, 25 January	9:00pm	2nd Semi-Final/2nd Leg

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday, 2 January	12:00pm-LIVE	Plymouth v. Leeds United
Monday, 2 January	9:00pm	Plymouth v. Leeds United

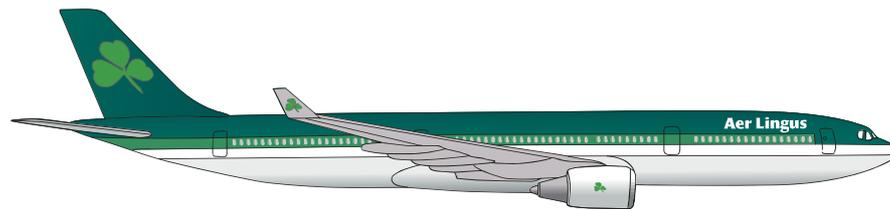
THE SETANTA SPORTS FOOTBALL LINE-UP INCLUDES: UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP, BUNDESLIGA, SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE, MUTV & CHELSEA TV

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